

the chronicle

Ties to Titanic

Industrial links of ill-fated liner to region go on show

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Mosaic moved

Historic emblem expertly lifted out of shopping site

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Bears hungry

Pressure on players to produce success

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Relief as shop staff unhurt in gun raid

A JEWELLER has spoke of his relief that staff were not hurt after armed robbers raided his Dudley shop. Staff were threatened with a shot-gun.

Two raiders struck at John Hollins Jewellers, in Wolverhampton Street, and threatened them before making off with gold jewellery worth £10,000.

The raid, on Monday, comes just days after owner John Griffiths celebrated 50 years at the shop.

No shots were fired and no-one was injured.

Two female staff were in the shop at the time and Mr Griffiths said they were recovering from "a terrifying experience".

Among the items taken were curbed and belcher-style chains along with a gold pocket watch and bracelets. Hand-made gold items commissioned especially by the store were also taken in the raid.

Part of Wolverhampton Street was sealed off by police as an investigation was launched and forensic teams moved in.

Mr Griffiths said: "There were two members of staff in the store at the time.

"This was a terrifying experience for them. I am sure every time someone opens the door or they hear a bang outside it will cause them to be on edge for a long while to come."

Death race drivers jailed

TWO drivers who caused a fatal crash by racing their cars through Dudley at up to 120mph have been jailed.

Passengers Danny Eales, aged 24, and Tim Morris, 22, died after the Honda Civic they were in was crashed by Michael Allen. Allen, of Summer Lane, Lower Gornal, was jailed for nine and half years and banned for 12 years, while Simon Skidmore, 25, of Westcroft Avenue, Wolverhampton, got seven years and a 10-year ban. Both pleaded guilty to death by dangerous driving.

VIOLENT KILLER IS JAILED FOR LIFE

by Naomi Dunning

A JEALOUS, violent killer has been jailed for life for the brutal murder of his ex-girlfriend. David Palmer was told he must serve a minimum of 23 years and will not be eligible for parole until 2035.

The jury took just 80 minutes to find him guilty of the murder of Kerry Smith. The father-of-two from Rowley Regis admitted manslaughter but denied murder on the grounds of diminished responsibility. Motivated by jealousy over their child, Palmer, aged 40, waited for 29-year-old Miss Smith at a bus stop in Blackheath High Street at around 11.30am on July 31 last year – a bus stop he knew she used to travel to her mother's house.



Killer – David Palmer



Victim – Kerry Smith

He followed her into a shop and confronted her as she desperately tried to get away from him. When she refused to listen to his pleas to see their daughter, he plunged a kitchen knife into her three times near the Malt Shovel pub.

As Miss Smith, of Hanover Road, Rowley Regis, lay bleeding, he ran off, punching an innocent bystander as he fled. Miss Smith later died in Russells Hall Hospital.

The court had heard Palmer had a previous conviction for assaulting Miss Smith, and had been arrested for harassment.

During the trial the court heard Palmer had terrorised Miss Smith to such an extent she thought one day he would kill her.

Intention

When sentencing Palmer, Judge John Warner said: "I am quite sure your intention that day was to kill her. As for the knife, you said you had it with you for self protection, I don't accept that."

West Midlands Police Det Insp Simon Astle described Palmer as a "jealous, controlling and violent man".

"He intended to kill her and in doing so finally exerted the ultimate control over her," he said.

The family of Kerry Smith have paid tribute to a kind, loving and trusting woman. Her sister Sue Beckett spoke out after her sister's murderer, David Palmer was jailed for 23 years.

Speaking on behalf of her family Mrs Beckett said Miss Smith, aged 29 was a devoted mum to her now two year old daughter Sammi.

Mrs Beckett added: "Losing Kerry has destroyed our lives, we have a missing link in our family now, that will never be replaced."

School sweethearts tie knot



Royal Marine Aron Bryant with his bride Kelly Rose on their wedding day

A ROYAL Marine has married his childhood sweetheart before his first tour of duty in Afghanistan.

It was all smiles as Royal Marine Commando Aron Bryant and his bride Kelly Rose emerged from St John's Church, Halesowen, as man and wife. The two met while at Leasowes Community College aged just 15 and were married on Saturday. Kelly, 20, will be giving up her job at Manor Vets in

Thieves drilling tanks to get petrol

THIEVES in Dudley are drilling through fuel tanks to siphon off petrol with three incidents reported in just a few days.

Cars in Temple Street, Musk Lane and Abbey Street, Gornal, have been raided over the past week.

Police said thieves had either drilled through tanks or forced fuel caps to drain off the petrol. The crime-wave comes as fuel is at a record high, with a litre of petrol at an average of £1.38.5p and diesel at £1.45.5p.

Resident Catherine Newbury said she believed there were other incidents which may not have been reported.

The 44-year-old, of Prospect Road, parks her Renault Modus in Temple Street and was devastated when she discovered the damage to her car last Friday.

"Someone told me they had seen my car leaking petrol and at first I thought it had been caused by simple wear and tear," she said.

"However, when I looked closer it was clear someone had got underneath and actually drilled through the tank to siphon off the fuel."

"I am unemployed at the moment and it will cost me around £500 to get the car repaired, which I just cannot afford."

"I use the car to get around looking for work and now I am really going to struggle."

Delight as jobs saved

STAFF at a Lye factory have celebrated after all 44 of their jobs were saved when their firm was bought out of administration.

Administrators had kept Lye-based metal parts and components manufacturer AMI Blay-mires trading after they were called in on March 9.

Now a deal has been sealed that sees Staffordshire-based Unitech Industries buy the business and take on the 44 staff.

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Town plans to get on Metro route

A NEW Midland Metro route will form part of the multi-million-pound revamp of Dudley to link new supermarkets and tourist attractions, a transport boss vowed.

A line through the town as part of a £289m project is being included in the blueprint for work on Castle Hill.

It is hoped trams will stop outside a £20m supermarket in The Minories and run down Castle Hill,

past the new entrance for the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo.

The line would run between Wednesbury and Dudley Port, with around 15 stops.

Transport bosses are applying for Government funding and say the approved extension of the line between Birmingham New Street and Snow Hill was a positive step forward. Centro chairman and Dud-

ley Councillor Angus Adams said: "We have included the Metro in the plans because we intend this to be a vital part of the regeneration of the town and the region."

"At the moment just one Metro line is not enough - we need a network to meet demand."

"We just need to wait and see if funding will become available but the reaction to the Birmingham line extension has been good and shows

progress is being made." Concerns had been raised that the Metro route would be abandoned after plans were unveiled for hybrid trams, capable of travelling along both light and heavy rail tracks, to take passengers along a defunct freight train route between Stourbridge and Walsall, with stops in Brierley Hill and Dudley.

But Councillor Adams said the two developments were "separate".

Final shout as the fire is put out at station

Firefighters paraded outside Halesowen Fire Station as they bid it a fond farewell before it closed for good. Townsfolk and relatives of the crews gathered just as Green Watch finished the last shift.

New tigers help boost number of zoo visitors

DUDLEY Zoo has seen a 22 per cent increase in visitors in the first three months of this year compared to the same period in 2011.

Chief executive Peter Suddock said he was delighted with the figures as the zoo celebrates its 75th anniversary.

He says new attractions such as two new tigers, Tschuna and Daseep, have helped bring in the crowds.

This year's quarterly figures stand at 23,020 compared to 18,880 visitors for the same period in 2011.

"Given the current economic climate this is fantastic news," added Mr Suddock.

"The figures are good across the past three months... which we believe is due to an increased presence on our website and daily news updates, plus the arrival of two highly endangered tigers which created massive interest."

The 75th anniversary plans include the opening of a new attraction called Penguin Bay. The walkthrough enclosure will offer visitors the chance to get close to the zoo's 70-strong group of rare Humboldt penguins - the largest colony in the UK. It is due to launch on May 6, the date the zoo opened to the public in 1937.

On Sunday morning, the Hagley Road station closed after being merged.

West Midlands Fire Service decided to combine operations with Cradley Heath.

The fire crew, in full dress uniform, marched on to the parade square at the station after the shift finished at 8am.

Crews from Cradley Heath also arrived to salute their colleagues as they marched in single file to stand in front of their fire engine at the main entrance.

A lone bagpipe played a lament as the firefighters lowered the station's Union flag to mark the occasion.

It is hoped the flag will be flown over the new station to be built to serve both Halesowen and Cradley Heath.

Early

Nearby residents, local councillors and Halesowen and Rowley Regis MP James Morris arrived for the early morning send-off.

Watch commander Carl Fentham, 48, said: "We are a very close-knit bunch and it is like a family. We all know each other really well and trust each other, which is very important in the job we do."

The father-of-two will be going to Cradley Heath station where he will become blue watch commander.

Around 15 firefighters from Halesowen are moving to Cradley Heath with the rest being deployed at other stations across the region.

Station commander Mark Lawton added: "I want to thank all the firefighters, and support staff who have done a fantastic job here."



The firefighters of Green Watch fold the flag which will they will take to their new station



A lone piper leads out Green Watch after their final shift at the station



Green Watch from left firefighters Paul Pinheiro, Steve Simm, Peter Heath, watch commander Carl Fentham, crew commander Dan Evans, and firefighters James Calder and Simon Mitchell - who did the last shift



Firefighters from Cradley Heath attended to mark the closing of the station

370 are waiting for new organs

AROUND 370 patients in the West Midlands are desperately waiting for life-saving organs, according to new figures.

Although there are currently 829,082 people in the region on the donor register, NHS Blood and Transplant says more are needed to meet the shortage.

Latest figures from the health organisation show, as up to the end of March, there were 370 patients on the waiting list.

The number includes 117 who have been temporarily removed because they are too ill or unable to receive a transplant.

Of those on the list, 333 need a kidney transplant, five are waiting for a lung transplant and four are waiting for a new heart. Patients are also waiting for liver and pancreas transplants.

The figures cover post-codes in the West Midlands Strategic Health Authority area including Dudley, Walsall, Wolverhampton, Sandwell, Birmingham, Wyre Forest and Stafford.

At the moment, people have to opt in to the NHS organ donor register log on to www.organdonation.nhs.uk

Travellers have gone

TRAVELLERS have finally left the overflow car park at the Black Country Living Museum - just as hundreds of extra visitors are expected over the Easter holidays.

They moved after museum bosses said they would apply to the High Court to get them evicted.

They had already ignored a court order which required them to leave the site immediately.

Museum spokeswoman Sara Lambert said: "We hope for a busy time over the Easter holiday and are pleased there will be plenty of parking available."

Anxiety classes

WORKSHOPS are being set up in Dudley for people suffering from anxiety, stress and depression.

The Dudley Rethink team offers one-to-one sessions for people looking for help.

For more information call Rethink, based in King Street, Dudley, on 01384 869898.

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700 sign to save theatre

ALMOST 700 people have joined the crusade to save Dudley Hippodrome from the bulldozer.

Campaigners say the strength of support is growing as word spreads that the historic Castle Hill landmark could be lost.

A multi-million master-plan is being developed to transform Castle Hill into a tourist hotspot and with the old Hippodrome being at the heart of the development, it could be demolished.

Campaigners, lead by enthusiasts Malcolm Palmer and Geoff Fitzpatrick, say they will be lobbying Dudley councillors to hold more talks on the future of the theatre.

Mr Palmer said they are looking to form a trust allowing them to attract sponsorship and other grant funding to help their campaign. But he says top priority must be in establishing a committee to develop more ideas.

"Everyone I have spoken to would like to see it stay. What better way to promote tourism than reopening the theatre?" To join the campaign email Mr Fitzpatrick on: ghfzpatrick@hotmail.co.uk or call 07875 901369. Mr Palmer is on 01902 678012.

Youngsters cleaning up

YOUNGSTERS rolled up their sleeves to collect litter in Kidderminster.

The group from the Aggborough and Spennells area joined the Friends of Cobham Wood's community tidy day.

Together with members of Oakleaf Grounds Services – part of The Community Housing Group – they collected more than 20 bags of litter and items such as corrugated metal sheets and gas bottles from the site.

To get involved in future projects, call Jordan Farnell, 01562 732346.

Call for players

A BADMINTON club is on the look out for new players.

Bewdley Colts wants to swell its ranks and offering free taster sessions to anyone interested in joining.

Anyone interested in a session or for more details can call Dave Barnett on 01299 402238 or Bewdley Leisure Centre on 01299 402595.

Dramatic fall in borough crimes, says survey

A DRAMATIC cut in crime saw almost 3,000 fewer victims in the Dudley borough, compared to the previous year. Across the West Midlands region crime levels are lower than at any time since 2002, say police.

In Dudley since last April, a total of 15,272 crimes have been reported, compared to 18,157 the year before.

The figures include 429 fewer victims of vehicle crime and 416 fewer house raids.

The number of victims of the most serious violence dropped by 24 and 748

fewer businesses were hit by crime. Dudley's Chief Superintendent Keith Baldwin said the force-wide reductions happened in spite of more than 1,700 staff leaving the organisation through £126 million cutbacks over four years.

Summer

And he pointed out the lower crime figures was set against the backdrop of last summer's riots, which brought some of the worst disorder the region has ever seen.

"At the same time levels of satisfaction

with feedback and action taken are showing some of the highest figures ever recorded since our in-depth surveys were launched," he added.

"All of this has been achieved at a time when we have made significant savings. Many of our functions have been reviewed which has led to some reductions in workforce and involved changes to the frequency of what we do, how we do it or whether we do it at all without impacting on service.

"The last year has been extremely positive in terms of our performance and I

am proud that we are making a difference where it really matters to our communities. Performance from September to January was particularly impressive, with some of the lowest recorded levels of robbery for a decade.

Crackdown

"These big reductions in crime across the board are good news."

The force's crackdown on robbery, driven by Operation Serve and Protect, resulted in over 1,600 fewer victims compared to this time last year.

Collision victim Denis, 92, is first to try new crossing



Denis Greaves not long after the accident

A 92-YEAR-OLD man seriously injured in a collision at a Black Country accident hotspot was among the first people to use a new pedestrian crossing there.

People near the Hagley Road dual carriageway, at Hayley Green, Halesowen – where four pedestrians have died in accidents along with numerous other incidents – had campaigned for action for many years.

It was known as the second most dangerous stretch of road in the UK.

The new puffin crossing – similar to a pelican but with detectors that change the lights as soon as someone has reached the other side of the road – was used by 92-year-old Denis Greaves, who has spent the last 17 months recovering from multiple injuries received when hit by a car, in which he was hurled about 50ft.

He suffered a cut head, multiple fractures of his right leg, severe trauma to his right hip and leg, grazes and bruises.

The retired British Leyland factory worker, who was crossing on his daily walk to collect newspapers for himself and neighbours when the accident happened, said: "We always called this stretch of road between Halesowen and the Badgers Sett at Hagley the 'mad mile' because people used to race along it.

Frightens

"It still frightens me. But I appreciate what's been done to get the crossing and it will be safer for children and older people to cross."

Dudley Council has installed the £85,000, after a consultation with residents and the lights were switched on for the first time on last week.

The road was labelled the second most dangerous in Britain when it featured in an ITV documentary in 2004.

Councillor Ken Turner, said: "The opening of the crossing is a day of elation for us."



Councillors Hazel and Ken Turner with 92-year-old Denis Greaves who was seriously injured in a collision at the accident hotspot, use the new crossing

Rail supply firm in funding deal

A RAIL industry supply firm in Stourbridge has secured extra funding to start exporting products.

More than 100 businesses have received advice and access to funding at events held by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

SCG Solutions Ltd, on the Gainsborough Trading Estate, in Lye, was one of the latest firms to benefit.

Director Steve Marsh said he was able to strike a deal after attending a meeting at the Copthorne Hotel in Brierley Hill.

Meeting date for train enthusiasts

STEAM train enthusiasts will discuss the latest developments on the Severn Valley Railway on April 4.

Members of the Severn Valley Railway association's Stourbridge branch will meet at the Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge from 7.30pm.

Speaker will be the Severn Valley Railway's chief engineer Phil Sowden, who will give a presentation called the Severn Valley's infrastructure from 2008. Admission is £2 including refreshments. Call 01384 375582.

Police use footie to bridge the gap

POLICE from Dudley took part in a seven-a-side football match against youths as part of an event to promote community cohesion.

Officers lined up against the 15 to 23-year-olds at the Dell Stadium in Brierley Hill. The event, called Bridging the Gap, also featured a stone lifting display from Stourbridge College student Shazada Istahar, 17.

Heavy horses to haul beer loads

SHIRE horses from the Midland Heavy Horse Association will deliver local ales to the pubs of Kinver on May 26.

The dray will drop off ales produced by Kinver Brewery to the KSCA, Royal Exchange, The Cross Inn, Kinver Constitutional Club and the Old White Harte between 12 noon and 2pm.

Helpers needed

MENTOR Link, a charity supporting young people, is looking for people to help out for two hours a week at its shop in Lombard Street, Stourbridge. Call 01299 823537.

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THE BEST
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RHODES

A READER reports hearing a spokesperson defending the rise in stamp prices to 60p on the grounds that "until a few months ago the Royal Mail had been cash-negative."

□□□□□□□□

SERIOUSLY, did you ever imagine you'd be rich enough to buy first-class stamps at 12 shillings each?

□□□□□□□□

WHILE in Suffolk we stayed at a fine old-fashioned pub, one of those rare hosteleries where they still welcome man's best friend. A huffy mother wanted to know why dogs were allowed in the bar but not children and was told that it was simply an old tradition. The honest answer, of course, is that dogs are clean, quiet, well behaved and everybody loves them. Kids, on the other hand...

□□□□□□□□

I REPORTED recently on the lad issued with a petrol-driven leaf blower in order that he could blow leaves up the street for the wind to blow them down the street. A similar infernal device was in use on the sea front at Southwold, being used in the equally pointless task of blowing sand off the prom while shattering the morning peace. Whatever happened to brooms?

□□□□□□□□

OR SINK plugs, for that matter. There was probably no more efficient, reliable and cheap device than the old rubber sink plug on a chain. Plugs did exactly what their name suggests. They plugged the plughole. Sadly, they are being replaced by those new-fangled chrome-plunger devices which neither keep the water in the sink when you want to fill it nor let the water out properly when you want to drain it. Let us turn the clocks back. The Campaign for Real Plugs begins (and very probably ends) here.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Eyesore car park gets blasted out of skyline

STOURBRIDGE'S Bell Street car park came down with a bang as it was reduced to rubble to herald a milestone in a multi-million pound regeneration project.

The skyline of the town was changed as the building was demolished within seconds using explosives. Contractors have begun the task of clearing the site of around 9,000 tons of rubble following Sunday's demolition, which saw part of the town centre closed off for safety reasons.

Views on planning

RESIDENTS can have their say on a blueprint guiding how new buildings, public spaces and redesigned streets planned for Dudley will look.

Developments such as five new public areas and a wildlife corridor linking beauty spots in Brierley Hill form part of an area action plan agreed by Dudley Council.

A further document which will guide how new schemes in the town will be designed and created has now gone out to consultation.

Residents can register their views online or by post until May 30.

The Brierley Hill Supplementary Planning Document is a key part of deciding new developments for the town up until 2026.

The car park and neighbouring Crown Centre are being demolished to make way for a new £50 million shopping centre and Tesco store. More than 120 people had to be evacuated from nearby homes including Baylie Court. Many were at St Thomas' Church Hall, Market Street, where food and hot drinks had been laid on by construction firm Bowmer and Kirkland.

Experts used about 30kg of high-speed explosives to level the car park. Workers laid around 6,336ft of cables around the five-level multi-storey to connect about 350 charges drilled into the concrete structure.

The layout of the charges was designed to allow the building to fall inwards to stop too much rubble and debris spilling outwards.

A huge plume of dust was sent into the sky when the car park was brought down to gasps from those who had gathered behind cordons.

● Diggers - page 9



The explosion causes the car park to start collapsing



The building comes down in cloak of dust



All that is left of the multi-storey car park in Bell Street, Stourbridge - 9,000 tons of rubble. Picture by Patrick Mulvaney

Council to pay over dragging its feet

DUDLEY Council has been slammed by a watchdog for taking too long to deal with noise and pollution caused by a foundry and must now pay out £7,000.

The authority "unreasonably delayed" taking action over Caparo Aluminium Technologies Ltd in Wollaston, the Local Government Ombudsman has ruled.

Locals won their three-year battle to get the factory's work restricted in 2010 when the council finally issued the firm with a permit restricting their work. The site closed shortly after, with bosses saying they could not stick to the new rules.

Residents, many of whom are elderly, claimed noise, foul smells and sand blew over their homes from the plant. The ombudsman Dr Jane Martin has ordered the council to pay £250 compensation to the complainant and each of the 27 households affected after being found guilty of maladministration.

Traders wanted

COMMUNITY organisations and traders are being invited to take stores at a family fun day at Stourbridge Cricket Club.

The club, based at the War Memorial Athletic Ground in Amblecote High Street, will be hosting the event on May 6.

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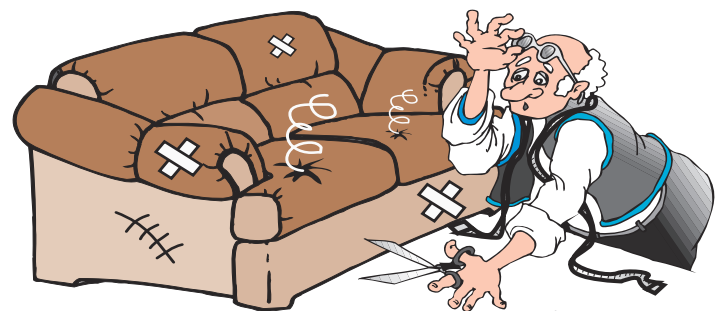
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The seven-week security-training course, developed by Mercury Training Services, gives trainees the skills security employers need from their staff.

In recognition of their achievement, the leader of Dudley Council, Councillor Les Jones, was invited to present certificates to 14 graduates.

The Brierley Hill company, helps people who are unemployed to learn skills in security, CCTV, door supervision, conflict management, problem solving, customer service and team work.

Mercury Training work with Job Centre Plus as well as security employers, with the aim of training people and getting them into work.

Following the successful completion of the course, graduates receive their Security Industry Authority Licence (SIA).

Paul Lawton-Jones, managing director of Mercury Training Services, said: "We

Family fun day

A FAMILY fun day takes place at Stourbridge Cricket Club on Sunday, May 6. Community organisations and traders are invited to take stores at the event, at the club's War Memorial Athletic Ground in Amblesote High Street.

Black Country industrial link to the tragic Titanic

MAJOR parts of the tragic ocean liner were built in the West Midlands and now visitors to a museum can see first-hand the links the region has to the Titanic. Great Barr researcher Andrew Lound has crammed findings from 40 years of research into the display, which is taking place in Smethwick until April 29.

There are about 400 exhibits on show, including replica equipment used to weigh luggage made by Smethwick-based W&T Avery Ltd at its Soho Foundry in 1911.

There will be pictures of safes, made by Bilston's Thomas Perry & Son plus a plate featuring the Thomas Perry & Company logo, like the ones that would have been fixed to the safes.

The safes would have been located on the sea deck and used to keep first-class passengers' valuables secure.

Door locks made by a number of small firms in Willenhall are also on display plus crystal light fittings from Brierley Hill Crystal.

Based

There will be information about Brierley Hill company Welin-Lambie, which invented the 'davit' or crane used for lowering down lifeboats.

The company, which is now based in Old Bush Street, went on to supply QEII and Royal Yacht Britannia.

Curator Mr Lound, said the exhibition, which began in January, had been a "tremendous success".

He said: "What seems to be impressing people is the number of Birmingham and Black Country firms that were associated not only with the Titanic but with ship build-

The Titanic sank 100 years ago. **DAVID LUMB** reports on how museum visitors can see its links with industry in the West Midlands

ing in general.

"The exhibition is, however, just getting into its stride as April is Titanic month."

"The Avery Historical Museum will be staging special events to commemorate the Titanic and all its passengers and crew."

The exhibition is being held at Avery Weigh-Tronix's Soho Foundry, Foundry Lane, Smethwick.

General manager Mike Scott added: "We are committed to preserving our company history. Avery have a number of direct links with the Titanic - former managing director William Edward Hipkins lost his life on board the ship and the company supplied the Titanic with a range of weighing equipment."

"Supporting this centenary exhibition seemed a natural extension of the work of our museum."

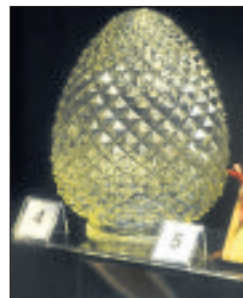
On April 7 and 8 the exhibition will be open from 10.30am with a special presentation at 2pm. To book show tickets and for all opening times call 0121 568 1667.



Exhibition curator Andrew Lound, from Great Barr, working on a sea floor exhibit



Avery scales which would have been in Titanic's mail room



A lampshade from Brierley Crystal

NEWS in brief

Wheely good way to cheap power

AN ENGINEER has come up with an ideal solution to soaring electricity bills - producing his own power.

A 10ft high water wheel has been installed at a home in Far Forest, near Kidderminster, to generate electricity for a historic house that Maurice Latchford has revamped over the last two years.

He will now rent out the property after the wheel is fitted by steel fabricators Pressvess in Kingswinford. The wheel cost £20,000 and took eight weeks to design and make.

Centre running exercise classes

A NEW series of exercise classes are being run at Halesowen Leisure Centre.

The ten-week programme provides exercise and nutritional advice. It is free to people with a body mass index of more than 28.

Sessions will run from April 17 to June 19 with classes every Tuesday from 6pm to 7pm and every Thursday from 6pm to 8pm.

Proposal to bring life to empty pub

PLANS to turn an empty pub in Stourbridge into a coffee shop and takeaway are set to get the go-ahead.

The work would transform the old Rock Station, Vauxhall Street and turn the ground floor would be used as the takeaway and coffee shop.

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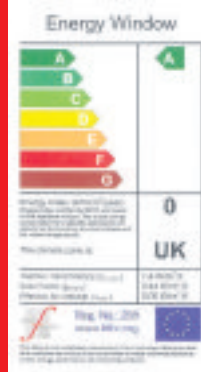
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Philip's holidays are full of animal magic

PENSIONER Philip Bunn loves Dudley Zoo so much, he spends his holidays there.

Philip, of Smethwick, is a long-standing zoo member, but mobility problems now make transport difficult – so the 69-year-old books himself into a nearby hotel for a week and visits the site every day.

He said: "I have always loved coming to the zoo right from an early age when I used to visit with my mother."

"I have stayed in touch over the years, although it is harder for me to get there now, so I make a regular reservation at the Station Hotel, which is opposite the zoo entrance, and visit the site every day throughout the week."

Curators

He added: "I adore the place, it makes me feel so happy to see the animals and learn about any new arrivals from staff who all know me and have a chat when I come over."

Philip this week showed how much he loves the zoo by donating £500 towards the zoo's enrichment programmes.

He said: "I have asked that the money be put to suitable projects for whatever animals the curators suggest – there is always something going on and I know the cash will be spent well."

The zoo's spokeswoman Jill Hitchman, said: "We are so grateful to Philip for his immensely generous donation."

"It will be spent on animal enrichment with various sections and we've promised to let him know about the projects as they take place."



Smethwick pensioner Philip Bunn, enjoying his holiday at Dudley Zoo

Sprout celebrates 1st birthday with a cuddle

DUDLEY Zoo staff have celebrated the first birthday of one of their rarest species. Bornean orang utan, Sprout, enjoyed treats from keepers and cuddles from her mother, Jazz. Keepers say the young primate has become more independent and spends time walking around and playing by herself, but will remain dependent on 20-year-old Jazz, until she is at least six. Primates keeper Pat Stevens said: "Sprout is one-year-old and we just can't believe where all that time has gone." She was the first orang utan born at the zoo in 19 years.

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LETTERS

Tories isolated over care home

THROUGHOUT my life I have always fought for the disadvantaged and disabled in our society.

Now with my friend Phil Vanes we are leading the fight to keep open New Bradley Hall Care Home for the elderly, against the Conservative controlled Dudley Council's plan to close this most wonderful home.

We formed a relative/friends group called Action Group NBH and in a short time raised more than 5,000 signatures on our petition from people all over Dudley, and given more time could have raised well over 20,000, with not one person refusing to sign in support

of our campaign. The council were then obligated to let me speak for three minutes at a full council meeting to state our case. At the end of that Les Jones, the leader of the council, made a decision to "set aside" the closure plan until there was a new consultation process. The council commissioned Age UK, Dudley, to organise five consultation meetings around Dudley.

When the Age UK Dudley facilitator was asked if Age UK Dudley represented residents in care homes she said they do not and would not be submitting their own report concerning their view on the proposed closure of NBH

Care Home which in my opinion raises serious doubts on the impartiality of Age UK Dudley to organise this consultation process.

The position in Dudley at present is most of the public support keeping open NBH Care Home including the health service, churches and other political parties, so where does that leave the Conservative controlled cabinet of Dudley Council? I would say that they are isolated from the electorate of Dudley.

MAC SCOTT MBE
Marsh Crescent
Wordsley

Crossed lines over plight of the elderly

I FEEL I must apologise to Lindsey Phillips.

I could not have expressed myself very clearly, because she seems to be under the impression I have somehow implied she is not mature because she is "only 17".

I merely said as she was so young there was a possibility, yes I did say, possibility her grandmother was under 80 and as such she would maybe not be aware of how some more elderly people struggle to heat their homes.

I appreciate, as do many of the other writers I am sure, that you are entitled to your opinion but as most were pointing out, you were very misinformed.

I would not comment on the difficulties of the young because I know nothing about it.

JENNY JAMES
Wordsley

LETTERS

to the Editor

POST

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Queen Street, Wolverhampton
WV1 1ES

E-MAIL

dudleychrons@
expressandstar.co.uk

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

Government attacks society's vulnerable

THIS government has the audacity to tell us we are all in it together and then go on to attack the most vulnerable people in our society the elderly.

These are the very people that fought for his country, most of these elderly fought in at least one world war and some of them fought in two. They have been the very backbone and pioneers of industry of which we will never see again. It makes me sick to the pit of my stomach to see the elderly in our country treated with so little respect.

To remove the age allowance for the 65 and above is absolutely appalling and they should hang their heads in shame. It may be a small allowance to the MPs with their gold-plated incomes and their inflation proof pensions. But let me assure you this allowance, means to the elderly that they can have that hot meal and maybe, just maybe put their heating on. May I also remind Mr Cameron and Mr Clegg that this age allowance is already means tested and only the very vulnerable pensioners qualify. Why do we treat our elderly with so little respect?

MR RAY JEVONS, Fieldview Close, Coseley

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Director is appointed

A NEW director of resources has been appointed at Wyre Forest District Council.

Joanne Wagstaffe will take on roles including being in charge of housing benefits, IT and audits.

She was previously director of resources and transformation with Copeland Borough Council.

A qualified accountant, Miss Wagstaffe replaces David Buckland, who has moved to Stratford-on-Avon District Council.

Council leader John Campion said: "She brings a strong track record of achievement and experience with her."

£120,000 flood works

A £120,000 scheme to stop flood water gushing into homes on a Halesowen estate has been completed, environment chiefs confirmed.

Around 30 homes in Grange Crescent were affected in two major floods within three years, prompting pleas for action.

Midlands Regional Flood and Coastal Committee and Dudley Council agreed to help fund the works.

Higher flood walls have been created by the Environment Agency to withstand water levels during rain surges.

The banks of the River Stour have also been bolstered after temporary

running repairs were made two years ago following floods in 2007 and 2009 and another near miss.

Environment Agency bosses admitted the threat of flooding still remains but said they had done what they could to "reduce the risks".

Agency project manager, John Hederman, said: "I am delighted the Grange Crescent flood scheme is now complete."

Environmental

"Not only will it reduce the risk of flooding in the area, but has the added benefit of environmental improvements for the local community."

The northern entrance to the subway off Great Cornbow has also been improved with a more open

approach allowing better views into the subway making it safer.

Dudley Council director of urban environment, John Millar, added: "Working closely with the Environment Agency has allowed us to implement long-planned improvement works to the subway."

"We are delighted the work has improved the appearance of the area and reduced flood risk."

Native hardwood oak and ash trees have been planted along the river as they are slow growing and unlikely to fall and block the waterway in heavy storms.

Fruit trees were also selected and planted offering all round variation in colour and blossom in the spring.

Fifth of pupils miss out on their preferred schools

ALMOST a fifth of pupils in the region missed out on their first choice of secondary school this year, figures show.

Statistics from the Department for Education revealed 18.7 per cent of 11-year-olds in the West Midlands failed to get a place at their first preference, with three per cent failing to receive an offer from one of their top three preferences.

Across Staffordshire 93.7 per cent of youngsters received a place at their first choice, with a total of 6,970 applications made in the county.

In Wolverhampton, there were 2,521 applications made, with 79.7 per cent getting their top choice.

In Dudley, 87.8 per cent of youngsters

got into their first preferred school. A total of 3,258 applications were made. While in Walsall, 75.2 per cent got their first choice and 2,976 applications were made.

The number of youngsters getting their first choice in Sandwell was slightly lower at 72.8 per cent. There were 3,500 applications made.

Nationally, statistics showed 14.7 per cent of pupils failed to get a place at their first preference.

Meanwhile, 4.1 per cent did not receive an offer from one of their top three preferred schools.

In total, around 74,000 children missed out on a place at their first-choice secondary school, the figures show.

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Diggers ripping through centre demolition work

Mosaic carefully lifted out



The mosaic is removed from the floor of the former Crown Centre. A MOSAIC of Stourbridge's coat of arms that dates back to the 1920s has been carefully removed from the Crown Centre as part of its £50 million redevelopment project. The historic artwork will now be restored by Tesco. Specialist equipment was used to extract the mosaic from the floor of the centre, which is being demolished as part of work to create a new supermarket.

Project manager Mark Glover, from Bowmer & Kirkland, said the mosaic had been covered by a protective plastic panel before contractors began cutting around it. The team spent several hours carefully drilling around the tiles and the mosaic was lifted out of the ground last week. Cracks in the decoration will be repaired and it will then be incorporated into the new development.

DIGGERS have ripped through the rooftop car park of Stourbridge's Crown Centre as demolition work continues to change the face of the town centre.

These latest pictures show machines making quick work of the demolition. Piles of dust and rubble have been mounting up as workers smashed through the roof into the upper floors of the building.

The centre's tower where shoppers used to access stairs and lifts has been cut away from Bell Street after bridges were dismantled.

Heavy blocks of concrete have fallen to the floor where motorists once drove down New Road outside the multi-storey car park.

But these are gradually being moved as the machinery moves through the Crown Centre building where weddings once took place in the town's register office. Now large sections of the concrete wall of Bell Street car park near the Crystal Leisure Centre have been removed.

Construction firm Bowmer and Kirkland have erected security fencing around both buildings as part of the works.

They plan to blow up the ailing car park early next month to make way for a new £50 million Tesco redevelopment. At this stage in the project demolition work is being carried out on Sundays to reduce disruption to the town. Stourbridge Library and the town hall can only be accessed via Crown Square while the work is carried out. A new entrance to the library and town hall will soon open along Smithfields, off Market Street.

Castle holding bat walk

A POPULAR annual bat walk will be held through the grounds of Hartlebury Castle near Kidderminster.

Visitors will be able to find out more about the creatures during the event at 7.30pm on May 18.

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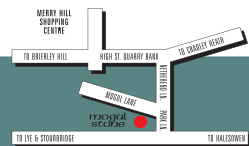
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The lime kilns during their heyday – they were completed in 1842 and operated until 1926



The restored lime kiln arm of the canal at the Black Country Living Museum

History can be found right under your feet

HISTORY is all around us; buried beneath our feet, sewn into the fabric of our buildings and landscape and woven into the heritage of our towns.

Blink, however, and you may miss it.

Some of the region's most important monuments are hidden, seemingly invisible, within our everyday surroundings.

One such scheduled monument is the Lime Kilns at the Black Country Living Museum.

Completed in 1842, the kilns were in use until 1926, burning limestone quarried from beneath Dudley from nearby Castle Hill and Wren's Nest.

Mel Weatherley, museum head of learning, said: "Massive quantities of limestone were quarried during the Industrial Revolution, supplying the iron and steel industry with flux to separate the gangue from the molten ore.

"This left the ground laced with



by Black Country Living Museum's Fiona Carding

caverns, the most spectacular being Seven Sisters."

Impressive 28ft chimneys topped the shafts and kilns, belching out continuous plumes of smoke, adding to the plague of fumes which gave the Black Country its name.

The kilns were filled with alternate layers of limestone and coal.

Small wagons transported the raw materials around the top of the kilns and the shafts were loaded through doors in the base of the chimneys.

A winding gin stood on top of the kilns and raised the raw materials delivered by the canal boats in the basin below.

Mel said: "Quicklime and lime dust were dangerous to work with. Despite wearing gaiters for protection and cloth wrapped around

their hands and faces, many lime burners sustained terrible injuries to their eyes and skin.

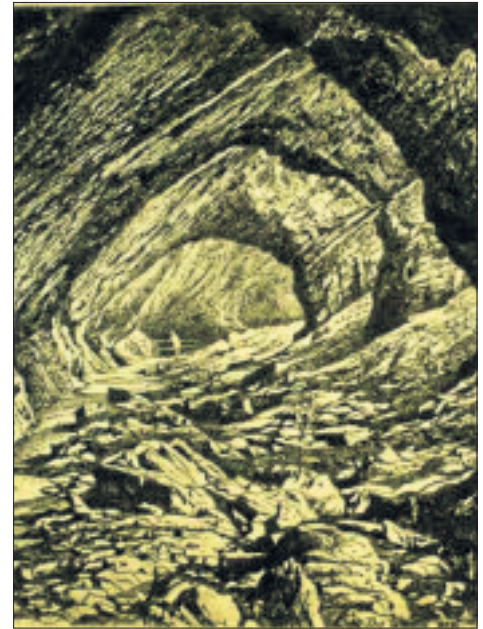
"In 1849 Lord Dudley built a hospital (which later became the Guest Hospital) for the care of lime workers blinded at his works.

The industrial might of the region was felt the world over. From ornate gates created for the Royal House of Sian to the construction of the Ibi-Gawa Bridge in Japan – the region's manufacturing industry made its mark.

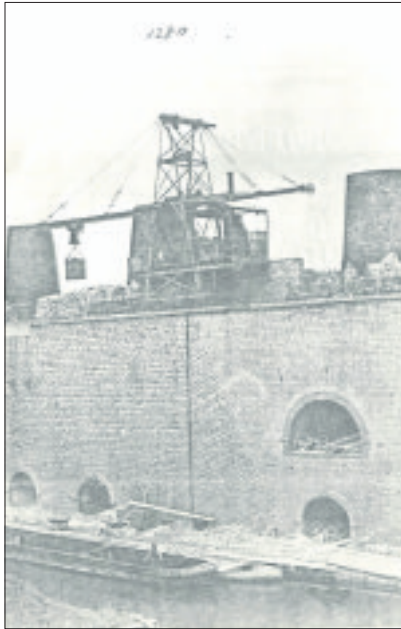
Its success lay in its geological wealth and the mettle of its people.

So next time you take a stroll – keep your eyes peeled. The past surrounds you but it can slip by in an historical blink of the eye!

● **Construction Skills: The Lime Cycle.** The museum is holding a practical course giving an overview of the role played by lime in the industrial heritage of the Black Country on May 26 and 27 and June 16 and 17. Visit BCLM.com for more details.



A line drawing of the spectacular Seven Sisters cavern



A winding gin raises raw materials from a canal boat

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Public backing plans for store at Cavendish site

In cider trading a winner



Manager Dawn O'Neill celebrates winning the Dudley Camra branch Cider Pub of the Year

A PUB has been named the best in Dudley and South Staffordshire for its range of cider. The Courthouse, which stocks 25 different ciders a month, was handed the award by real ale champions Camra. The pub, in New Road, Dudley, specialises in

ale but has increased its range of ciders since winning the award for the first time in 2010. Manager Dawn O'Neill, who runs the pub with husband Michael, said: "There has been a lot of demand for traditional ciders."

SHOPPERS have given the thumbs-up to multi-million pound supermarket plans in Dudley town centre that will create up to 300 jobs – as bosses prepare to formally submit an application for the development.

A consultation has been held over proposals to transform eyesore Cavendish House office block into a superstore. And those who viewed the plans wholeheartedly approved of the idea, saying said the supermarket would be "ideally located" and a "major boost" to the town.

Under the plans, Cavendish House in Trindle Road, which has been empty since 2008, would be demolished and nearby land cleared.

Site owner Cavendish Quarter Properties Limited, a member of the Abstract Group of Companies, said an application for the development would be submitted soon.

At a consultation event at the Churchill Shopping Centre, the public were shown the latest artist's impressions for proposals, and invited to quiz developers and architects.

Barbara Round, a 59-year-old domestic cleaner from Banklands Road in Dudley and a grandmother-of-two, said a supermarket would be a boost for the town.

She said: "I think it's great because so many shops have been shutting down. I don't think there will be any issue with the Burnt Tree Tesco nearby because shoppers want choice. All we've got in Dudley at the moment is banks and charity shops so this would be a major boost."

Cheaper energy call by MP

ENERGY companies should be forced to put over 75s on the cheapest possible tariff in order to cut their gas and electricity bills, says Dudley North MP Ian Austin. He says it would help reduce bills for around 90,000 Black Country pensioners. At present there are more than 400 different energy tariffs available to consumers, making the process of identifying the best deal difficult.

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thechronicle

Scrap dealers will have to provide fingerprints

SCRAP metal sellers in the West Midlands will be made to provide their fingerprints as part of a pilot project to tackle soaring metal thefts.

Dudley has become the first place in the country where scrap dealers have been provided with record books and ink pads. Signs are now being installed at scrapyards letting people know that if they want to sell metal they will be asked for their fingerprints.

The aim is to make it easier for police to trace anyone thought to be trading stolen metal. If the scheme, being run by West Midlands Police and Dudley's community safety partnership, Safe and Sound, is successful, it will be rolled out wider.

Metal thieves across the region have targeted schools, churches, war memorials and businesses, causing damage and loss running into hundreds of thousands of pounds.

Sgt Chris Fox, who is leading the campaign against metal theft in Dudley, said: "I am really pleased we have been able to assist traders in the borough and help make it a difficult environment for those attempting to sell stolen scrap metal."

"We will continue to use a wide range of tactics, both overt and covert, as part of the operation to stamp out this crime which brings misery to all of the community."

"It sounds like a simple measure, however such information will prove hugely useful when investigating metal thefts in the area as the fingerprints will offer a significant line of inquiry if the stolen item is recovered."

Restaurant gets go-ahead

A BID to transform a former careers advice centre in Stourbridge into an Italian restaurant and takeaway has been given the go ahead despite objections from nearby businesses.

Council planners have approved proposals for the old Connexions base in High Street which shut in March last year.

But neighbouring shops had complained about the scheme saying there were already enough food outlets in the town centre.

Hotel opens at listed site



Mayor Anne Hingley, centre, with operations manager Amy Hanks, general manager Sarah Hall and Marilyn Monroe impersonator Suzie Kennedy at the hotel

A NEW £3.7 million hotel has opened at a grade-II listed former weaving mill in Kidderminster.

Premier Inn has created 26 jobs with the business at the historic Slingfield Mill building, which dates back to 1870.

Mayor of Kidderminster Councilor Anne Hingley was invited to cut the ribbon on the hotel and was

given a tour of the building. She said: "I think it is marvellous. They have kept the features of the old Slingfield Mill in the rooms with the brickwork and arches. They have got a great range of rooms. I think it just what Kidderminster needs."

The hotel shares the five-storey site with Debenhams store in the town centre.

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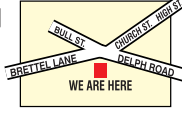
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£3.8m scheme will put down new road surface

ROADS around Wyre Forest will be resurfaced as part of a £3.8 million improvement scheme aimed at reducing the number of potholes in Worcestershire.

Around 350 routes will be repaired during the programme of surface dressing work announced by the county council. The work will get under way on April 14 and will continue until August.

Council chiefs have warned there will be some disruption while the work is carried out but efforts would be made to ensure it is kept to a minimum.

Councillor John Smith said: "This is the most extensive surface dressing programme we have ever undertaken and the investment shows we're as committed as ever to improving things for those using our roads."

"What surface dressing allows us to do is catch a road halfway through its lifespan and give it an extension."

"It's something that has been used successfully for a number of years and it offers great value for money as catching things at this stage removes the need for even more costly work in the future."

"Obviously, as this work moves quickly around the county, there will be the potential for some disruption."

"But everything will be done to keep this to an absolute minimum and the great advantage of this type of improvement is the job gets done very quickly," he added.

Once work is completed drivers will need to drive with caution at 20mph over the surfaces for the first 24 hours. Treated roads are then swept.

Comedy getting nautical

A NAUTICAL musical comedy is to be performed at Netherton Arts Centre.

On April 14, Coward at Sea by Michael Lunts will take audiences aboard the SS Madeira and relive Noel Coward's P&O voyage home to Britain from the Far East in the 1930s. The show at the Northfield Road venue starts at 7.30pm. For tickets contact Claire Starmer-Jones on 01384 813943.

Chance to choose charity



Dudley Group of Hospitals charity fundraising co-ordinator Karen Phillips and Asda store manager Rob Emslie with Keith Rogers, from Sycamore Green Adventure, and Cancer Support Dudley centre manager Chris Barron

KINDHEARTED shoppers and staff at a supermarket in Dudley are raising money for charity.

Shoppers at Asda in High Street are being asked to nominate which of three good causes receives £100 in two months' time. Every customer will be given a token at the checkouts when they pay for their shop-

ping and they will be able to allocate it to their preferred charity. The charity with the most tokens at the end of the time frame will be given £100. The good causes nominated are Sycamore Green Adventure, The Dudley Group of Hospitals Charity and Cancer Support Dudley based at The White House.

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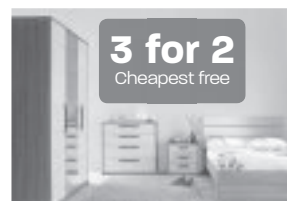
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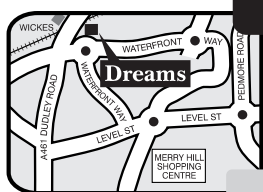
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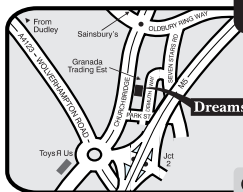


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thechronicle

Floral gift for retiring chairman

KINGSWINFORD TOWNSWOMEN

THE March meeting began in solemn mood as chairman Chris Moy asked for a minutes silence in memory of former member Josie Cartwright who had recently died.

On a happier note, flowers were presented to Kath Turner and Bessie Waters on the occasions of golden wedding anniversary and a special birthday respectively.

Members were asked to sign the petition concerning access to quality care provision for all elderly, vulnerable and infirm patients at home or in hospital.

The change in date of the federation quiz was announced and a team formed.

The annual general meeting was conducted alongside that normal business.

Treasurer Margaret Farmer said the club was in a stable position. Josie Smith thanked the retiring committee. Retiring chairman Chris Moy was presented with a floral gift in recognition of all her efforts.

There was a welcome return for speaker Sue Clegg, recounting her experiences of a visit to Hong Kong before it was returned to China. She was thanked by Kath Turner.

Kath had also provided flowers which were donated as a raffle prize. The raffle was won by Dot Pearsall, Brenda Adkin, Doreen Comley and Barbara White.

The next main meeting will be on May 14.

School's hat-trick as Tom wins prize



Winner Tom Cadwallader with Soroptimist International Midland Arden Region President Ruth Longville. Picture by Seven Star Photography

KIDDERMINSTER & DISTRICT SOROPTIMISTS

TOM Cadwallader, from King Charles I High School in Kidderminster, won the Soroptimist International Midland Arden regional 10th public speaking Competition.

He beat 14 other contestants from Midlands schools, speaking on the topic 'Do We Have a Fair Taxation System?'

His prize was £150 with a trophy to be displayed at King Charles I School for a year.

Tom is the third student from King Charles I High School to have won the competition.

The competition is open to students aged 14-18 years who are sponsored by other Soroptimist Clubs in a wide area of the Midlands.

For more information about the activities of Kidderminster Soroptimists email on kidderminstersorop@gmail.com or look at the website link at www.sigbi.org

Tombola donations sought

WOLLASTON "E" TWG

CHAIRMAN Jean Latham welcomed 45 members to the March meeting which incorporated the AGM.

In her yearly report, the treasurer explained that the increase in subscriptions was mainly due to the rise in the hire of venues and fees for speakers.

It was agreed that speak-

ers had been good and the various outings enjoyed.

The annual dinner venue is Blakelands on May 15 at a cost of £20. The lunch club enjoyed a visit to the College of Food, Birmingham.

Tombola prizes for the opening evening are required. Members are asked to bring these to the meeting on April 10.

There followed a quiz, won by the Shirley Horne team. Jean Millward's team took the booby prize. The raffle was won by Sue Ward and June Pardoe.

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* The "from" price and price bands vary for each show - see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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Technology college opened



Edgecliffe High School Association chairman Charles Lowe, headteacher Chris Rogers and MP Gavin Williamson at the opening of a new technology block

THE RIBBON has been cut on a new £750,000 design and technology block at a school in Kinver.

MP Gavin Williamson was given the honour of officially opening the new classrooms at Edgecliffe High School.

Students at the site, which is a specialist technology college, are able to use the latest equipment, including laser and vinyl cutting machines and 3D-software to create their designs.

The building has four new rooms including a dedicated sixth form area. Students and staff gathered to celebrate the opening of the block, which was completed late last year.

Technology teacher Graham Spiers said: "We've got both traditional equipment and cutting edge equipment to help students give their products a real professional finish."

The school in Envile Road, which has 650 students aged 11 to 18, was awarded specialist technology college status in September 2007.

As well as design and technology facilities, there is a high-specification computer for every five students.

Classrooms now have a networked computer with data projector and interactive whiteboard.

Animals are booking into libraries

ANIMAL loving families can learn about their favourite creatures during a series of activities across the Dudley borough.

To celebrate National Pet Month, libraries will host the events during the Easter holidays.

Families can meet the "Animal Lady" who will be joined by a meerkat and other animals when she tours libraries

on April 10. Her first stop of the day will be at Kingswinford Library from 10am to 11am, followed by Brierley Hill from 11.30am to noon and Dudley Library from 2pm to 3pm.

Children will be also able to learn about Blue Cross Animal Rescue Centres when they stop by on April 10 at Long Lane Library from 11am to noon and Lye Library from 2.30 to

3.30pm, then on April 11 at Coseley Library from 11am to noon and Sedgley Library from 2.30 to 3.30pm.

Dudley Zoo will then present its popular creature feature at Stourbridge Library on April 13 from 11am to noon. Andrea Pope-Smith, director of adult, community and housing services, said: "It's great to see there is plenty going on in libraries."

Waterfalls to be part of £1m park works

FLOWING waterfalls and cascades will be recreated in an 18th century parkland near Stourbridge after bosses announced funding had been secured for the work as part of plans to reopen the grounds to visitors.

The water features in the grounds of Hagley Hall, near Stourbridge, are being transformed after a deal, thought to be worth at least £1 million, was struck for the restoration works.

Lord Cobham, owner of the Hagley estate, will be sharing the costs of the project with conservation group

Natural England as part of a three-year development scheme. This includes building a visitor centre and car park in a bid to reopen the Grade I-listed parkland.

Christopher Charles Lyttelton, the 12th Viscount Cobham, hopes to attract up to 70,000 people a year to the park.

Safeguard

Income generated from visitor numbers could safeguard the future of the hall and its 350-acre parkland.

"I'm pleased to say we have got the funding in place to go ahead with restoring the cascades," he said.

"It has always been my dream to bring the park back to life. The park is terribly important for the area."

Lord Cobham said a tender for the works had already gone out. Work will focus on creating new drainage for the cascades and reshaping trees and scrubs which have not been properly maintained for decades.

The cascades are a series of waterfalls running down to the Palladian bridge near St John's Church in the grounds of the hall.

But the stream needs to be cleared and better drainage created to allow the water to run through smoothly.

The cascades represent the next in a series of projects to restore features throughout the parkland.

Natural England worked with the estate on the Wychbury Obelisk in 2010.

thechronicle SVR enjoys its busiest opening in four years

A SURGE in passenger numbers has seen the Severn Valley Railway enjoy its busiest opening to the season for four years, bosses revealed.

The steam heritage line, which runs from Kidderminster to Bridgnorth, saw a 62 per cent increase in visitor figures at its three-day Spring Steam Gala with almost 4,200 paying passengers visiting the attraction.

The line also recorded a record number of advance bookings - more than 3,600 - for its two "Day Out With Thomas" events, which ran last weekend and are on again during the weekend of April 14 and 15.

Such is the interest the SVR is preparing to put on its busiest timetable for the forthcoming Easter bank holiday weekend. Trains will run on Saturday, Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday.

SVR visitor services manager David Mee said: "We've arrived at the end of March some way ahead of the passenger numbers we had budgeted for, so we have to be happy about the way we've begun the year."



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thechronicle

Trial scheme could see driving tests reinstated

DRIVING tests could return to Kidderminster three years after a centre was controversially closed, a Government minister has revealed.

Roads Minister Mike Penning said a trial scheme to hold tests from council buildings, hotels and leisure centres could be extended to the town. Suitable test routes and locations for bases will be looked at.

More than 1,700 people signed a petition to retain a centre in the Wyre Forest district after the Driving Standards Agency said Kidderminster's building in Castle Road needed costly repairs and did not suit modern day needs.

But it shut anyway in 2009 and learners have since had to use the facility in Lower Gornal instead.

Mr Penning said Kidderminster, Droitwich and Bromsgrove were now being considered to take part in the trial in Worcestershire, with a view to it becoming permanent. He said the Driving Standards Agency would look at suitable routes and locations in the towns.

Wyre Forest district councillor Julian Phillips said: "This is a welcome announcement for not just me, but all those driving instructors, learner drivers and the rest of the community who backed our campaign in 2008 and 2009. All our efforts were not in vain."

Wyre Forest MP Mark Garnier added: "I have been lobbying the minister since the election to restore testing in Wyre Forest."

Ruby hopes to be a gem



Ruby Bowater, 17, of Netherton, who will be flying the flag for the region

A DUDLEY teenager is heading state-side to compete against American youngsters for the title of Perfect Teen.

Ruby Bowater of Netherton will be flying the flag in the US for the Black Country and Europe packed off by well-wishers including the Mayor of Dudley. Charity fundraiser Ruby, aged 17, won the title of Europe's

Perfect Teen last October.

Part of her prize means the Halesowen College student gets to jet to Florida to take part in US leg of the competition.

Ruby, who is studying dance, drama and English literature A Levels, said: "It has been wonderful and a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Titan profits show rise

STEEL wheel maker Titan Europe saw its trading profit improve by £19 million last year to a record £33m.

The Kidderminster company revealed a 38.7 per cent growth in revenue in 2011 to a record £492.5m.

Titan, which employs nearly 400 at its Cookley works saw significant growth in all its markets including 69.4 per cent in mining.

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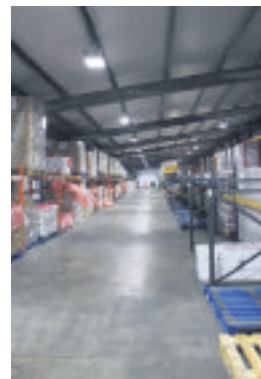
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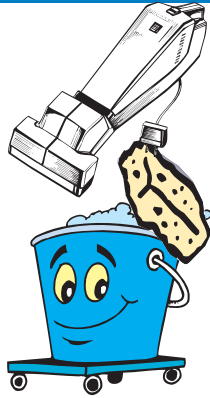
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Important to pay attention to detail

SOME rooms stand out in a house and it's all down to little touches that make all the difference.

Complete with decorative details, such as mirrors, artwork, cushions and books, these rooms add a touch of class to any home. Here's a quick guide to getting the most out of your decor.

● Stand back and try to see your possessions as a visitor would. It will help you re-evaluate them with a fresh eye. Take some photos of your rooms, as it will make it clear which objects are working for you, and which aren't.

● Use collectables – with a few pieces of decorative china or old photographs, or more planned with objects carefully gathered over the years. Consider whether items can be grouped together and look for themes to unify them.

● Less is more – rotating displays occasionally and moving familiar objects into different rooms will instantly refresh them and the space.

Experiment

● Don't overlook perfect display spaces like mantels or occasional tables which can be dressed with a "tablescape" of collected objects that have some link, whether in colour or the material in which they're made.

● See cushions as decorative jewels which can instantly brighten a space and sometimes completely alter the look of a room. Nothing looks duller than identical cushions, so experiment by, for instance, grouping cushions in the same colour but in different textures, or have one striking cushion staring beside its plainer neighbours.

● Walls look wonderful if dressed properly – but successful picture displays rely for their impact on a connecting factor. Before hanging a group of pictures you should take time to prepare a plan on paper or lay out the pictures on the floor.

Next, measure exactly the distance required between the frames and the



Use various books and shelves to frame doorways and make a feature

height from the floor. If there is furniture below the pictures, such as a sofa or table, pictures should be hung at a height that makes them appear to "tie in" with any furniture below.

Pictures also could be hung or propped against the wall on shelves, or even hung from the upright shelf supports.

● Display books in surprising ways, like using a pile of books as a lamp "table", or creating a wall of bookshelves incorporating a shelf over a door.

It can also be effective to paint the inner sides of the shelves a darker colour than the outer shell, to effectively "frame" a book display.

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A WELL-DESIGNED bathroom can add significant value to a property from both a lifestyle and financial perspective and it needn't cost you a fortune.

The key factor when looking to invest in your home is to benchmark your property against the neighbourhood. The area will have a maximum price per house type and so while a paddling pool or hot tub might be your dream indulgence, apart from costing thousands this could even have a negative effect on your house price especially as some people might see them as a safety risk.

But a nice bathroom always impresses. As does an en suite for the master bedroom if you have the capacity, and a downstairs loo is also a great asset if you have a big family and/or lots of visitors. If the plumbing is favourable, you can very easily transform a cloakroom into a washroom too.

Accessories

You may be tempted to follow the latest trends in terms of bright colours and whacky accessories but if you think you may be looking to move in the foreseeable future, this could have a negative effect on your property value if you live in an older property.

Likewise, a rustic cottage feel will look slightly weird in a modern urban apartment – however much you might miss the country. It is all about having an 'appropriate' interior for the age and style of building.

In terms of styles, it is generally best to go for a 'classic' look that will not date easily and will win general approval from most people. There is the safe neutral environment or the 'shabby chic' style that many period homes suit.

But the fairly conservative approach, in terms of letting the property determine the overall style, does not mean that you can't personalise your bathroom.



Design your bathroom to suit your needs and the shape of the room

Here are five top tips to avoid having a negative effect on property prices while enjoying the lifestyle benefits of a makeover on whatever scale:

1. Don't install poor quality fixtures and fittings – they will look cheap and will not withstand the rigours of family life, and will need replacing again in no time.

2. Ensure that the bathroom is well lit. Maximise natural light.

3. Keep colours light. 99% of bathroom suites are now white, but the effect can still be ruined by dark paint. Black might impress your teenage son, but it won't wash with an estate agent.

4. Accessorise! Towels, plants, pic-

tures – there is a plethora of exciting options that mean you can really personalise your bathroom but without costing a fortune and without impacting on property value.

5. If you are converting a loft or extending, make sure you have checked out the situation regarding planning permission and Building Regulations. Visit www.planningportal.gov.uk for more detail – you do not want to get this wrong.

• The information was provided by Lees at Great Bridge Road, Bilston. For more advice and inspiration visit www.heritagebathrooms.com or call Lees showroom on 0845 050 8240.

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thechronicle

Time to brush up on home maintenance

WHEN the summer arrives it's time to do some very important maintenance checks around your property.

Maintaining your home before things go wrong is the best way of ensuring that your property stays in top condition in the cheapest way.

It is so much simpler to keep things well maintained than to be in a position where you are constantly repairing.

The emphasis is on painting and decorating in the summer, but other jobs like replacing guttering, damaged through the bad months, or patching render and brickwork joints are best carried out in warmer conditions.

GUTTERING
If the guttering needs any replacements or cleaning this should be done first to stop dirt and debris falling onto other areas you have just decorated.

When removing rotten cast iron gutters you will need help since the lengths are heavy and it is not safe just to let it break apart and drop to the ground. Scrape fascia downpipes with care and wear eye protection. When the old gutter is cleaned away, replace,

repair and paint any fascia boards and soffits.

DECORATING WALLS AND WOODWORK

Take care when working on ladders and access equipment. Make sure all step ladders are fully opened. Never lean stepladders against the wall to work from. Do not work alone on a high ladder.

Start cleaning walls and windows from the top. Preparation is the key to good decorating of any kind and it is false economy to paint over old surfaces without proper preparation. The paint will peel and crack in no time. A coat of masonry paint will not fill cracked render or cover mould growth.

To clean render effectively, a clean wall downpower washer can be used with fungicidal wash, removing any mould growth. Make good any cracks or holes and remove any loose material.

Walls must be sound before painting. Tap the walls as you go listening for any 'hollow' sounds as this means that the render has come unstuck from the masonry and should be replaced.

The major problem with cracked or

'blown' render is that water will get in behind it and cause damage and damp problems so be vigilant. Remove as much debris as possible with a wire brush then apply stabilising solution to allow a good key for the masonry paint.

On already textured walls, smooth masonry paint should be used but if you want to apply a texture, then textured masonry paint can be used. Both usually have a 10-year guarantee if painted on to a properly-prepared surface. Do not paint when the sun is hot, the paint dries quickly and the edges will show when you stop.

DECORATING TIMBER

Painted timber should be washed down first to remove dirt. If the paint is still keying well there is no need to remove it but it should be rubbed down with a fairly fine grade sandpaper to remove a little of the shine. If the paint is not perfect, it is best to get back to a sound surface and start again. This can be done by using a paint stripper or a heat gun.

After sanding down or stripping, the surface should be wiped over with white spirit. Make good any defects using a heat gun filler and where any rot is present it should be cut away. The remaining wood should be treated with wood preserver and the gaps and holes filled with external wood filler. If you have had to strip back to the wood you will need to prime the timber surface.

The primer should be followed by an undercoat, then a top coat. Varnishing timber after sanding should be done as soon as possible to protect the timber.

CRUMBLING BRICKWORK

If the winter's freezing weather has caused the surface of the exposed brickwork to crumble and become unable to resist the ingress of moisture, it is important to seal them. Make good any defective pointing and seal.

Information from www.diydoctor.org.uk



It is important to clear out debris from your guttering

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GARDENING**thechronicle**

Growing show giving a chance to grab a slice of the good life

As people ask more questions about the sources and quality of their food as well as looking to save on their shopping bills and improve their diets, **DANNY FARRAGHER** looks at a show which is tapping into this movement to get back to nature

PEOPLE from all over the Midlands eager to learn more about growing, making and preserving their own food found a utopia at The Edible Garden Show's latest offering.

It brought together the practical and the fun of being the master of your own cabbage patch.

Whether you wanted to find out more about growing your own fruit and vegetables, baking your own bread or producing your own honey there was something for every taste at the show in Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire.

It's only the second year this homage to the "Good Life" has been running but already the visitor numbers have grown from just over 10,000 in its inaugural year to more than 13,000 over the weekend of March 16-18.

Slice

The show is well on its way to establishing itself as a premier agricultural show, but with the exception of concentrating on the little people who want to have more control over where their food comes from and over the quality.

Show director Bev Channell said: "This is only our second show but clearly the gardening world has become engaged with The Edible Garden Show and we have now established ourselves as a must-see event for all those people looking for a slice of the Good Life." The national show, which has now expanded its base over two halls, has already pulled in some big names and sponsors who are committed to the ideals of growing your own food.

These include TV chefs John Burton Race and Rachel Green, who gave cooking demonstrations in the cookery theatre and authors and broadcasters Pippa Greenwood, of Radio 4's Gardeners Question Time and Paul Peacock.

The range of more than 170 exhibitors covered everything from growing your own fruit and veg, to brewing your own beer which is enjoying something of a renaissance.

You could see making and taking part in baking your own bread, keeping bees to produce your own honey and looking after livestock such as hens to provide fresh meat and eggs.

John Burton Race said: "I think this show is absolutely fantastic.

"It really is fun, they're a great crowd here and it is very, very busy.

"It's good synergy for me because most of the customers grow their own; they've got little allotments and smallholdings and raise their own livestock. "What I'm trying to do at

the show is some dishes with ingredients that they possibly grow and give some ideas.

"The feedback has been wonderful."

Although there is a serious side to The Edible Garden show is it a family event with a massive amount of free parking.

Along with the exhibitors there are craftsmen and women showing the traditional skills.

There were activities for the children to get involved with such as making candles from beeswax, live animals they can get close to and pet and a tidal wave of information about being more self-sufficient.

The three-day spectacular will return to Stoneleigh Park next year from March 15-March 17.

For more information visit: www.theediblegardenshow.co.uk



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Chef John Burton Race shows how to make best use of the produce



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The intricately detailed 1:24 scale model of Hogwarts Castle used in the first film Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. It was built by a team of 86. As 'night' falls it is lit up by 300 fibre optic lights



The unforgettable Great Hall, scene of 'the sorting', feasts and a duel or two, and the first port of call on The Making of Harry Potter tour

Potter about in steps of boy wizard Harry

THE MAKING of Harry Potter tour at the Warner Brothers' movie studios in north London takes visitors behind-the-scenes to see the actual sets, costumes and props used in the eight movies about the boy wizard.

This is not a theme park, despite the hefty £83 price tag on a family ticket, but is a day out that dedicated Potter fans will remember at what is in effect a museum of Harry Potter artifacts.

On the site of a former Rolls-Royce aircraft engine factory near Watford, in two massive sound stages co-incidentally named J and K in an accidental homage to author JK Rowling, is the world's greatest collection of Potter memorabilia. This ranges from the iconic sets for Hogwarts Castle's Great Hall and the bizarre shops of Diagon Alley, to countless snitches, goblets, swords and paintings that seem crammed into every corner of these super-sized warehouses.

Pre-booked

The tour is already proving phenomenally popular. Tickets must be pre-booked online at the website www.wbstudiotour.co.uk or via the approved tour operators. Visitors are then given a specific tour time. Each party will be limited to 100 so fans get to see the displays close up.

The prices, £28 for adults and £21 for children (five to 15), have not put off the fans with April already set to be a sell-out with up to 5,000 visitors per day. The walking tour, mostly self-guided, takes three to four hours.

After introduction films, the screen lifts to reveal the huge gothic doors to the impressive Great Hall. Inside visitors can see graffiti carved by the Hog-



Visitors can walk through the real Diagon Alley film set on the Harry Potter tour at Warner Bros studio

warts 'pupils' on the huge wooden tables, character costumes and the house points bead system which is said to have caused a bead shortage when installed in the year 2000.

Beyond the hall, visitors can peer inside Hagrid's Hut, the Weasley's kitchen complete with magic appliances, Dumbledore's office, the Gryffindor common room and boys' dormitory, including Harry's surprisingly tiny bed – apparently, as the actors grew older they were filmed so we couldn't see their feet hanging over the ends – and Professor Snape's potions classroom.

Everywhere the Potter fanatics can make gleeful discoveries, such as the Mirror of Erised, Goblet of Fire, the Philosopher's Stone and horcruxes which contained evil Voldemort's soul.

This area also shows how green screen technology made it appear Harry and co could ride their broomsticks and – here's the really great thing – you get to have a go and see yourself on screen soaring over Hogwarts and Tower Bridge. Unique souvenir photos are available, from £12 for one to £20 for the full set of four.

The most monumental displays are from the Ministry of Magic, including the massive Soviet-style 'Magic is Might' statue and the London Underground-like architecture from the ministry, plus Professor Umbridge's pink and gilt confection of an office.

Between the sound stages is the back lot where Privet Drive can be visited with the triple decker Knight Bus parked nearby beside Hagrid's motorbike and sidecar and the famous flying Ford Anglia. You can view the only section of the Hogwarts Bridge whilst sipping a sickly sweet Butterbeer.

In the next building an onscreen Warwick Davis shows how the special effects experts brought the fantastic beasts and monsters of the films to life in The Creature Shop, where Aragog the giant spider lurks beside werewolves, elves, goblins and an interactive Buckbeak the Hippogriff. Then its on to the atmospheric Diagon Alley and through the art department to a magnificent scale model of Hogwarts Castle built for the first film, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone.

The gift shop, where souvenirs range from £3.95 for a lollipop to £495.95 for a replica set of Professor Dumbledore's robes, is massive.

Warner Bros Studio Tour London is at Leavesden near Junction 20 of the M25, easy to reach from the West Midlands via the M40, A41 and M1. There is free parking. There is a shuttle bus from Watford Junction rail station.



Weird and wonderful discoveries in the Creature Shop where Harry Potter fans can learn how elves, goblins, dragons, werewolves and other beings were brought to life via models, motors, masks and make-up



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CASUALTY

BBC1, 9.10pm

Connie Fisher is back on the box, pushing her abilities once again by taking a guest role in the latest edition of the Beeb's flagship medical drama. She plays Amanda, a dog-walker who's out with her friend David and their pooches. Everything seems normal — until the ground under their feet gives way, and they're trapped in an underground cave system. Sam is first on the scene, but seeing as she suffers from a fear of the dark, she probably isn't the best person to handle the situation. The problem is, when Dylan arrives, they end up bickering. Fingers crossed they can put their differences to one side long enough to get poor David and Amanda out of the hole they're in — literally.

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Rowing: The Boat Race. Cambridge v Oxford (Start-time 2.15pm). **3.05** Golf: The Masters. **4.20** Final Score. **5.15** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **5.35** Film: Shrek. (2001) Animated adventure, with the voice of Mike Myers.

7.00 The Voice UK. Tom Jones, Jessie J, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue turn their backs to another set of hopeful singers, only facing them if they hear something they like.

8.20 The National Lottery: In It to Win It. Dale Winton hosts the quiz show in which five contestants answer questions to scoop a big prize. Includes the Lotto and Thunderball draws, presented by Myleene Klass.

9.10 Casualty. Sam and Dylan put aside their differences to save two dog walkers who fell into an underground cave system, and Linda's niece causes trouble in the ED.

10.00 BBC News; Weather. **10.20** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Chelsea v Wigan Athletic; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games in the Championship, League One and League Two.

1.20 Weatherview. **1.25** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.30** CBBC. **12.00** The Sky at Night. (R) **12.20** Film: Road to Rio. (1947) Comedy, starring Bob Hope and Bing Crosby. **2.00** Film: Bringing Up Baby. (1938) Screwball comedy, starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant. **3.35** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.05** Flog It! **5.05** Easter from King's 2012 — Passiontide to Easter.

6.20 Dad's Army. Walmington-on-Sea's platoon assumes responsibility for some heavy artillery. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

6.50 Natural World. Insight into the origins of the iceberg that sank the Titanic in 1912, charting its formation and 4,000-mile journey from the Greenland ice sheet. (R)

7.40 Timewatch. Documentary exploring people's enduring fascination with the Titanic, uncovering the truth behind the myths that have emerged since the vessel sank in 1912. (R)

8.30 Golf: The Masters Live. Hazel Irvine introduces the third round at the Augusta National in Georgia, where the players look to make a move ahead of the final day of the opening Major of the year. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 The Sarah Millican Television Programme. (R) **12.30** Film: Repo Chick. (2009) Premiere. Comedy sequel, starring Jaclyn Jonet. **1.55** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **11.20** The Real Housewives of New York City. **12.20** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **1.20** ITV News; Weather. **1.25** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **1.55** Film: The Secret of My Success. (1987) Comedy, starring Michael J Fox. **3.55** Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. (1971) Musical fantasy, based on Roald Dahl's classic children's book, with Gene Wilder. **5.45** Regional News; Weather.

6.00 ITV News; Weather. **6.15** Keith Lemon's LemonAid. New series. The comedy character tries to fulfil people's dreams.

7.00 All New You've Been Framed! Unlikely insurance claims.

7.30 Harry Hill's the Best of TV Burp 24. Classic send-ups from Burps past.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. More acts show off their stuff in the third round of auditions, hosted by Ant and Dec.

9.15 Take Me Out. A sewage worker, a student, a groundsman and a model try to impress 30 single women, and last week's couples go on their dates. Paddy McGuinness hosts. Last in the series.

10.45 ITV News; Weather. **11.00** Film: Magicians. (2007) Comedy, starring David Mitchell and Robert Webb.

12.40 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.05 The Hoobs. (R) **6.30** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** The Grid. **7.25** MSA British Rallycross Championship. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** T4: Koko Pop. **9.25** T4: Oily Murs: The Album Chart Show Special. (R) **9.55** T4: Made in Chelsea. **10.55** T4: Charlie's Angels. **11.55** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.50** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.25** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** Channel 4 Racing. **4.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.10** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

6.15 Come Dine with Me. Andy Wright hosts the final dinner party in Bristol. (R)

6.40 Channel 4 News. **7.10** 4thought.tv. **7.15** Deal or No Deal. Game show, with Noel Edmonds.

8.10 Big Fat Gypsy Weddings. Irish travellers the McFadyens celebrate a series of major events, including patriarch Chris's release from prison and an emotional wedding. Last in the series. (R)

9.10 The Million Pound Drop Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1million, but lose money for giving incorrect answers.

10.45 FILM: Showgirls. (1995) Adult drama, starring Elizabeth Berkley.

1.20 Film: A Scanner Darkly. (2006) Animated drama, starring Keanu Reeves. **3.00** The Moonbird. (R) **3.15** A Family Portrait. (R) **3.25** Franklin & Bash. **4.05** Privileged. (R) **4.50** 90210. (R) **5.30** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.15** Meerkat Manor. (R) **10.45** Holiday Heaven on Earth. (R) **11.15** Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **1.15** Rory McGrath's Pub Dig. (R) **2.20** Film: Ambush at Tomahawk Gap. (1953) Western, starring John Hodiak. **3.45** Film: War Arrow. (1953) Western, starring Jeff Chandler. **5.20** Film: Two Mules for Sister Sara. (1970) Western, starring Clint Eastwood and Shirley MacLaine.

7.10 5 News Weekend. **7.15** NCIS. The team flies to Israel for a final showdown. (R)

8.05 NCIS. Part two of two. The safe house is attacked, leaving Vance in hospital and Eli missing, but with all the Palestinians accounted for it is unclear who was responsible. (R)

9.00 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. An investigation into three unexplained deaths presents a tough challenge for the team — and leads to fears that a public health emergency may be imminent. (R)

10.00 CSI: NY. The team investigates the murder of a real-estate broker.

10.55 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. Benson and Stabler investigate a serial rapist.

11.50 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show.

12.00 SuperCasino. **3.55** Great Scientists. (R) **4.45** Rough Guide to Adventures. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2 **3.15** American Idol **6.05** Film: The Borrowers (1997) **8.00** The Zoo **9.00** Planet's Funniest Animals **9.15** Britain's Got More Talent **10.15** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **10.45** Take Me Out — The Gossip **11.45** Celebrity Juice

ITV3 **3.40** Film: Carry On Jack (1963) **5.35** Film: Carry On Up the Jungle (1970) **7.25** Film: Carry On Henry (1971) **9.15** Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) **11.05** Film: Carry On Jack (1963)

ITV4 **11.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Royal Challengers Bangalore v Delhi Daredevils and Deccan Chargers v Chennai Super Kings. **8.00** Rookie Builders **9.00** British Touring Car Championship Highlights **10.30** Film: Ticker (2001)

BBC THREE **7.00** Doctor Who **7.50** Great Movie Mistakes 2011: NOT IN 3D **8.10** Shrek: Once Upon A Time **9.10** Film: Shrek 2 (2004) **10.35** World Series of Dating **11.00** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad!

BBC FOUR **7.00** Still Ringing After All These Years: A Short History of Bells **8.00** Monty Don's Italian Gardens **9.00** Inspector Montalbano **10.45** The Secret Life of Bob Monkhouse

E4 **3.55** Made in Chelsea **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **6.00** The Big Bang Theory: Access All Areas **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **7.30** The Big Bang Theory: It All Started with a Bang **8.00** Rules of Engagement **9.00** Film: Date Movie (2006) **10.40** The Big Bang Theory **11.35** The Cleveland Show

FILM4 **3.25** Five Children and It (2004) **5.10** New in Town (2009) **7.00** St Trinians (2007) **9.00** Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story (2004) **10.50** Kaboom (2010)

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THE ONE & ONLY DES O'CONNOR

ITV1, 7.30pm

Des O'Connor has now spent half a century in showbusiness, suffering a few lows, namely at Glasgow Empire on a Friday night after a few weeks in the business, and many dizzy highs, including his own ITV1 shows. At 80, Des could be taking things easier, but he's still entertaining the masses, namely in this show paying tribute to the singer, presenter and all-round entertainer. Comedians Matt Lucas, Rhod Gilbert and Paul O'Grady will all be worshipping at the O'Connor altar, along with Katherine Kelly, actor Robert Lindsay and presenter Melanie Sykes.

6.00 Breakfast. 7.30 Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Easter Day Eucharist from Coventry Cathedral. Live service led by the Bishop of Coventry. **11.00** Urbi et Orbi. Live coverage of the Pope's Easter message. **11.35** Country Tracks; (R) Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** Regional Programmes. **1.35** BBC News. **1.45** Human Planet. (R) **2.45** Wallace & Gromit: A Grand Day Out. (R) **3.10** Film: Mary Poppins. (1964) Disney musical fantasy, with Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke. **5.25** Songs of Praise.

6.00 Titanic with Len Goodman. A visit to the Belfast building where the ship was designed. (R)

6.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker marks the 20th anniversary of the Monmouth and Brecon canal.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team return to Wimbledon.

9.00 Silent Witness. Part one of two. Nikki stumbles upon a sinister underworld of sex grooming and teenage prostitution.

10.00 BBC News; Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Match of the Day 2. Including action from Arsenal v Manchester City.

11.25 MotoGP. Action from the Qatar Grand Prix.

12.55 Weatherview. **1.00** Sign Zone: The Diamond Queen. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** A History of Ancient Britain Special: Orkney's Stone Age Temple. (R) **4.00** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.35** Great British Menu. (R) **12.35** Film: A Distant Trumpet. (1964) Western starring Troy Donahue. **2.30** Cycling: World Championships. Highlights from the Hisense Arena in Melbourne. **5.00** The Many Faces of Dame Judi Dench. Charting the actress's rise to fame. (R)

6.00 Frozen Planet.

Highlights of the series in which David Attenborough takes viewers on a journey through the polar year, from the depths of winter to the melting world of the summer. (R)

7.00 Golf: The Masters Live.

Hazel Irvine introduces coverage of the fourth and final day at the Augusta National in Georgia, where the winner of the first Major of the year is set to be decided. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

12.00 Twenty Twelve. Conclusion. The Algerians issue the team with a deadline to find a solution to their demand – and the French threaten to pull out of the Games. Comedy, starring Hugh Bonneville. (R) **12.30** Film: Deadline. (2009) Premiere. A writer retreats to a remote house after a breakdown, only to discover a secret that threatens to change her life for ever. Horror, with Brittany Murphy and Thora Birch. **1.50** BBC News. **3.00** The Super League Show. Tanya Arnold introduces highlights of the latest Super League matches, including St Helens v Wigan Warriors, Hull FC v Hull Kingston Rovers and Warrington Wolves v Widnes Vikings. **4.00** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** Ade in Britain. (R) **10.30** May the Best House Win. (R) **11.30** Matt Cardle: Into the Light. (R) **12.30** ITV News; Weather. **12.35** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **1.50** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **2.15** The Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) **2.45** This Is Lionel Richie. (R) **3.45** Film: The Mummy. (1999)

6.00 Regional News; Weather.

6.15 ITV News; Weather. **6.30** All Star Family Fortunes. New series. Reality TV star Mark Wright and Loose Women's Jane McDonald take part.

7.30 The One & Only Des O'Connor. Marking his 80th birthday and 50 years in showbusiness, the entertainer is joined by guests including Matt Lucas, Paul O'Grady and Oily Murs for chat, surprises and performances.

9.00 Titanic. New waiter Paolo is instantly smitten with cabin steward Annie. Barnes finds Watson loitering in steerage and Jim is furious when wife Mary lets her guard down with Peter Lubov.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives: Sergeant on Spike. John Sergeant presents a profile of Spike Milligan.

11.15 The Cube. A woman puts her knowledge of the games to the test. (R)

12.10 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.30** River Monsters. (R) **3.25** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.15 The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Road to London 2012: That Paralympic Show. (R) **7.35** Channel 4 Presents – 2012: Hannah Cockcroft – Part Two. (R) **7.40** Sailing: America's Cup Uncovered. (R) **8.05** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.30** Film: Dr Dolittle. (1998) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **4.05** Time Team. (R) **5.10** Channel 4 News. **5.15** 4thout. **5.20** Come Dine with Me. Four hosts compete for the £1,000 prize in east Lancashire. (R)

6.20 FILM: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel.

(2009) Premiere. Comedy, starring Zachary Levi and Jason Lee.

8.00 Celebrity Deal or No Deal. New series. Jimmy Carr takes part in the game show, trying to guess the value of mystery boxes to win up to £250,000 for his chosen charity. Hosted by Noel Edmonds.

9.00 Homeland. Carrie and Saul learn that Walker is alive.

10.00 Crucifixion. Gunther von Hagens' project to create a crucifix.

11.20 FILM: Lake Placid. (1999) Crime horror, starring Bill Pullman.

1.00 Film: 21 Grams. (2003) Drama, starring Sean Penn. **3.00** The Lobster Club. (R) **3.05** Crash. Bang. Wallow. (R) **3.10** Hollyoaks. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Fifi and the Flowerbuds. (R) **6.15** City of Friends. (R) **6.25** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **6.40** Iqam Ogam. (R) **6.50** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Thomas & Friends Special: Day of the Diesels. (R) **8.15** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** The Mr Men Show. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Mist: Sheepdog Tales. (R) **10.00** Film: High School Musical 3: Senior Year. (2008) Teen musical sequel, starring Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens. **12.05** London: The Inside Story. (R) **1.05** Film: Lawrence of Arabia. (1962) Oscar-winning epic drama directed by David Lean, starring Peter O'Toole. **5.15** 5 News Weekend. **5.20** Film: Toy Story. (1995) Pixar animated adventure, with the voices of Tom Hanks and Tim Allen.

7.00 William and Kate: One Year On. The royal couple's first year of marriage.

8.00 Once Upon a Time. Regina steps up her efforts to get Emma out of town; 5 News Update.

9.00 FILM: Blade II. (2002) Guillermo del Toro's action thriller sequel, starring Wesley Snipes and Kris Kristofferson.

11.00 FILM: The Hard Corps. (2006) Action adventure, starring Jean-Claude Van Damme.

1.10 SuperCasino. **3.55** UEFA Europa League Football. **4.50** Rough Guide to Short Breaks. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2
2.10 Film: Happy Feet (2006) **4.15** Britain's Got Talent **5.30** Britain's Got More Talent **6.30** Film: Jurassic Park (1993) **9.00** Benidorm. Joyce tries to impress the hotel inspector. Last in the series. **10.00** Film: Gladiator (2000)

ITV3
2.30 Film: The Best of Benny Hill (1974) **4.15** Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) **6.05** Film: Carry On Matron (1972) **8.00** Film: Holiday On the Buses (1973) **9.50** Film: The Magnificent Two. (1967) Morecambe and Wise comedy. **11.45** Film: Doctor Zhivago (1965)

ITV4
11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Rajasthan Royals v Kolkata Knight Riders and Pune Warriors v Kings XI Punjab. **8.00** Minder. Arthur and Terry pursue a devious crook. **9.00** Film: Highlander. (1986) Fantasy adventure, starring Christopher Lambert. **11.20** Film: Death Wish 2 (1981)

BBC THREE
7.00 The Voice UK **8.20** Film: Shrek the Third (2007) **9.45** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **10.30** Family Guy

BBC FOUR
11.00 Ray Mears Goes Walkabout **9.00** Film: Strictly Ballroom. (1992) Australian dance comedy, starring Paul Mercurio. **10.30** Passion in Port Talbot: It Has Begun **11.30** Angelic Voices: The Choristers of Salisbury Cathedral

E4
2.25 Film: See Spot Run (2001) **4.10** Ugly Betty **6.00** 90210 **6.55** Film: Footloose (1984) **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Made in Chelsea

FILM4
3.05 James and the Giant Peach (1996) **4.40** Big (1988) **6.35** Hairspray (2007) Musical comedy, starring Nikki Blonsky and John Travolta. **9.00** Coming to America. (1988) Comedy, starring Eddie Murphy. **11.20** Dawn of the Dead (2004)



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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 Animal 24:7. 10.45 Don't Get Done. 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. 11.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.15 Regional News; Weather. 1.25 Film: (1998) Animated comedy, with the voice of Woody Allen. 2.40 Film: Flushed Away. (2009) Animated adventure. 4.00 Wallace & Gromit: The Wrong Trousers. (R) 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.15 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 BBC News; Weather. 6.45 Regional News; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One & Only Des O'Keefe. 7.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 7.30 EastEnders. 8.30 A Question of Sport. 9.00 Silent Witness. 10.00 BBC News. 10.10 Regional News; Weather. 10.20 Match of the Day. 11.35 The Football League Show. 12.50 Weatherview. 12.55 Sign Zone: The Diamond Queen. (R) 1.55 To Boldly Go - Down. (R) 2.55 Britain's First Photo Album. (R) 3.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Film: Funny Girl. (1968) Musical biopic of Fanny Brice, starring Barbra Streisand. 1.50 Film: The Way We Were. (1973) Romantic drama, starring Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand. 3.45 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 4.30 Flog It! (R) 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 7.30 Great British Menu. 8.00 Chaplains: Angels of Mersey. 8.30 The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. 9.00 Modern Spies. 10.00 Simon Amstell: Do Nothing Live. 11.00 The Story of Slapstick. (R) 12.00 Film: Gregory's Girl. (1981) Romantic comedy, starring John Gordon Sinclair. 1.30 Film: Blame It On Fidel. (2006) Premiere. Drama, starring Nina Kervel-Bey. 3.00 BBC News. 3.25 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 10.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.15 Murder, She Wrote. (R) 12.15 60 Minute Makeover. (R) 1.15 ITV News; Weather. 1.25 Regional News; Weather. 1.30 You've Been Framed! (R) 2.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 4.00 The Great British Taste Tour. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 Planet's Funniest Animals. (R) 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Scott & Bailey. 10.00 Kelly & Her Sisters Grow Up. 11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.15 Mayday. (R) 12.00 The Smugglers' Story. (R) 12.40 The Zone. ITV News Headlines. 2.35 Champions League Weekly. 3.00 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 Film: Ben-Hur. (1959) Oscar-winning epic, starring Charlton Heston. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four in a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Inside Nature's Glow. Hippo. New series. The team dissects a hippopotamus in the Luangwa Valley, Zambia. 9.00 Embarrassing Bodies. The doctors visit Tamworth, Staffordshire. 10.00 Ramsey's Kitchen Nightmares USA. 11.00 Homeland. Carrie and Saul learn that Walker is alive. (R) 12.00 Random Acts. 12.05 Disasters at Sea: Why Ships Sink. (R) 1.10 Death Row. (R) 2.05 Film: I Heart Huckabees. (2004) Comedy, starring Dustin Hoffman. 3.50 Franklin & Bash. (R) 4.35 St Elsewhere. (R) 5.20 Privileged. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.05 5 News Lunchtime. 12.10 Meerkat Manor. (R) 12.40 Home and Away. 1.10 Neighbours. 1.40 The Phantom of the Opera at the Royal Albert Hall. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.25 Inside Hollywood. 6.35 Monkey Life. (R) 7.00 Cowboy Traders. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Ultimate Police Interceptors. 9.00 Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. 10.00 Film: Outlaw. (2007) Crime drama, starring Sean Bean. 12.10 America's Toughest Prisons. (R) 1.10 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.10 HouseBusters. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Animal 24:7. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One & Only Des O'Keefe. 7.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 7.30 EastEnders. 8.00 Holby City. 9.00 The Syndicate. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. National Lottery Update. 10.35 The Matt Lucas Awards. 11.10 Kevin Bridges: What's the Story? (R) 11.40 The Estate. (R) 12.10 Film: Waking Up in Reno. (2002) Romantic comedy, with Billy Bob Thornton. 1.35 Weatherview. 1.40 Sign Zone: The Diamond Queen. (R) 2.40 The Apprentice. (R) 3.40 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 4.25 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.40 Film: Whistle Down the Wind. (1961) Drama, starring Alan Bates and Hayley Mills. 1.15 Animal Park. 2.15 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 7.30 Great British Menu. 8.00 The Hairy Bikers: Bakealation. 9.00 Horizon. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. (R) 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 The Hidden Art of Islam. 12.20 Medium. (R) 1.05 BBC News. 4.00 The Super League Show. 4.30 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Great British Taste Tour. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Countrywide Kitchen. 8.00 Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Celebrity. (R) 9.00 The Mighty Mississippis with Trevor McDonald. 10.00 3.10 News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Benidorm. (R) 11.35 Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) 12.30 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.35 The Zone. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 Undercover Boss USA. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 How to Cook Like a Pro. (R) 12.35 River Cottage Bites. 12.55 Film: Rear Window. (1954) 3.05 Channel 4 Presents - 2012: David Clarke. (R) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four in a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Superize vs Superskinny. 9.00 The Undateables. 10.00 Facejacker. 10.30 Hit the Road Jack. 11.05 Random Acts. 11.10 Desperate Housewives. 12.10 Poker. 1.10 Channel 4 Presents - 2012: Helen Turner. (R) 1.15 KOTV Boxing Weekly. 1.40 Salling: America's Cup Uncovered. 2.10 MSA British Rallycross Championships. (R) 2.35 The Grid. (R) 3.05 Late Night Poker. (R) 4.00 FIA GT Championship. 4.55 Not Just Cricket. (R) 5.00 Full Metal Challenge.

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: Mary Higgins Clark's Moonlight Becomes You. (1998) Mystery thriller, starring Donna Mills. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 5.30. 7.00 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Traders. 5 News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Nichols calls in the help of a forensic scientist he admires. 11.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Poker: The Big Game. 12.55 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.10 Nick's Quest. (R)

Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Animal 24:7. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One & Only Des O'Keefe. 7.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 7.30 EastEnders. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 The Apprentice. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Match of the Day; National Lottery Update. 11.55 The Syndicate. (R) 12.55 Weatherview. 1.00 Sign Zone: See Hear. (R) 1.30 Watchdog. (R) 2.30 Orbit: Earth's Extraordinary Journeys. (R) 3.30 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Film: His Majesty O'Keefe. (1954) Swashbuckling adventure, starring Burt Lancaster. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Animal Park. 2.15 To Buy or Not to Buy. (R) 3.00 Helicopter Heroes. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 7.30 Great British Menu. 8.00 Our Food. 9.00 Divine Women. 10.00 The Apprentice: You're Fired! 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Film: Little Dieter Needs to Fly. (1998) Premiere. Werner Herzog's documentary about Dieter Dengler. 12.30 Medium. (R) 1.15 BBC News.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Great British Taste Tour. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 The Unforgettable Dick Emery. 8.00 Foyles War. (R) 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The One & Only Des O'Connor. (R) 12.05 Road Warriors. (R) 1.00 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 3.00 Film: The Prince and the Pauper. (1877) Period drama. 5.05 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 Sali Mail. (R) 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 Undercover Boss USA. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 Channel 4 Presents - 2012: Will Bayley - Part Two. (R) 12.10 The Fabulous Baker Brothers. (R) 12.40 River Cottage Bites. (R) 12.50 Film: The Man Who Knew Too Much. (1956) 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four in a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Four Rooms. 9.00 The Sinking of the Concordia: Caught on Camera. 10.00 10 O'Clock Live. Special current affairs show. Last in the series. 10.55 Strictly Baby Disco. (R) 11.55 Random Acts. 12.00 Music on 4.50 St Elsewhere. (R) 4.35 Privileged. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: The Memory Keeper's Daughter. (2008) Drama, starring Emily Watson. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 5.30. 7.00 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Traders. 5 News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Nichols calls in the help of a forensic scientist he admires. 11.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Poker: The Big Game. 12.55 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.10 Nick's Quest. (R)

Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Animal 24:7. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One & Only Des O'Keefe. 7.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 7.30 EastEnders. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 Ivory Wars: Out of Africa. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Who Do You Think You Are? US. 11.20 The Story of the Turban. 12.00 Film: View from the Top. (2003) Romantic comedy, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. 1.25 Holiday Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.30 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 3.30 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 Film: Tycoon. (1947) Romantic drama, starring John Wayne and Laraine Day. 1.40 Racing from Aintree. The opening day of the Grand National meeting. 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 7.30 Great British Menu. 8.00 Natural World: Heliogon - Secrets of the Lost Gardens. (R) 9.00 White Heat. 10.00 The Sarah Milligan Television Programme. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Modern Spies. (R) 12.20 Medium. (R) 1.45 BBC News. 4.15 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Great British Taste Tour. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Are Your Kids Contagious?: Tonight. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Long Lost Family. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Take Me Out. (R) 12.00 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.00 Are Your Kids Contagious?: Tonight. (R) 2.25 ITV Nightscreen. 4.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.00 Sali Mail. (R) 6.05 The Treacle People. (R) 6.15 The Hoobs. (R) 6.40 The Hoobs. (R) 7.05 Freshly Squeezed. 7.35 According to Jim. 8.00 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 8.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 Undercover Boss USA. 12.00 Channel 4 News Midday Summary. 12.05 River Cottage Veg Heroes. 12.50 Film: North by Northwest. (1959) Hitchcock thriller, starring Cary Grant. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four in a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Get Your House in Order. 9.00 Peter Kay Live at the Bolton Albert Halls. (R) 10.00 Derek. 10.35 The Inbetweeners. (R) 11.05 The Inbetweeners. (R) 11.40 Random Acts. 11.45 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 12.45 The Undateables. (R) 1.45 One Born Every Minute. (R) 2.40 Damien Hirst: Thoughts, Work, Life. (R) 3.25 The Bible: A History. (R) 4.20 Time Team. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.10 LIVE with Gabby. 12.10 5 News Lunchtime. 12.15 Charley Boorman's Extreme Frontiers. (R) 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. 2.15 CSI: NY. (R) 3.15 Film: The Memory Keeper's Daughter. (2008) Drama, starring Emily Watson. 5.00 5 News at 5. 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 5 News at 5.30. 7.00 Ultimate Police Interceptors. (R) 5 News Update. 8.00 Cowboy Traders. 5 News at 9. 9.00 NCIS. 10.00 Law & Order: Criminal Intent. Nichols calls in the help of a forensic scientist he admires. 11.00 Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. (R) 11.55 Ripper. (R) 12.35 SuperCasino. 3.55 House Doctor. (R) 4.20 Michaela's Wild Challenge. (R) 5.10 Nick's Quest. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 Animal 24:7. (R) BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Pointless. (R) 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. 7.00 The One & Only Des O'Keefe. 7.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 7.30 EastEnders. 8.00 Waterloo Road. 9.00 Ivory Wars: Out of Africa. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Who Do You Think You Are? US. 11.20 The Story of the Turban. 12.00 Film: View from the Top. (2003) Romantic comedy, starring Gwyneth Paltrow. 1.25 Holiday Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) 2.30 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 3.30 Antiques Road Trip. (R) 4.15 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.45 Film: The Big Sky. (1952) Western, starring Kirk Douglas. 1.45 Racing from Aintree. The second day of the Grand National meeting. 4.30 Perfection. (R) 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Celebrity Antiques Road Trip. (R) 7.30 Great British Menu. 8.00 Mastermind. 8.30 Gardeners' World. 9.00 Brick by Brick: Rebuilding Our Past. 10.00 Twenty Twelve. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Review Show. 11.45 Weather. 11.50 Film: Down in the Valley. (2005) Drama, starring Edward Norton. 1.35 Film: Yella. (2007) Premiere. Drama, starring Nina Hoss. 3.00 BBC News. 4.30 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 The Great British Taste Tour. 5.00 The Chase. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 Poms in Paradise. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: William Roache. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Charlie Wilson's War. (2007) Fact-based political drama, starring Tom Hanks. 12.20 Newsnight. 12.30 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. 5.30 Four in a Bed. 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.55 4thought.tv. 8.00 Get Your House in Order. 9.00 Peter Kay Live at the Bolton Albert Halls. (R) 10.00 Derek. 10.35 The Inbetweeners. (R) 11.05 The Inbetweeners. (R) 11.40 Random Acts. 11.45 Embarrassing Bodies. (R) 12.45 The Undateables. (R) 1.45 One Born Every Minute. (R) 2.40 Damien Hirst: Thoughts, Work, Life. (R) 3.25 The Bible: A History. (R) 4.20 Time Team. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

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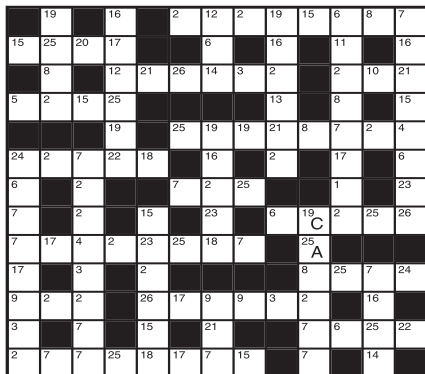
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Brain Gym

No.163

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

V	P	S	Q	T	Z	K	I	M	F	W	E	Y
A	N	R	D	O	G	J	L	B	C	H	U	X

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Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

Cryptic Clues:

Across

- Literary capacities (7)
- Feel depressed and inferior? (5)
- Start being awkward (5)
- There's no place for him (4-3)
- Little cared for, being petty (5-6)
- What business partners might be? (4,7)
- A drop in the ocean (3-4)
- Nitrate treated like nitrogen (5)
- Bird from the Rhone (5)
- He's not content with only scoring a bull (7)

Down

- One who draws a London landmark (5)
- Dim sun, when out, will hardly encourage it (6)
- An agreeable answer (3)
- A drug almost does for the leading lady (6)
- Maybe an overgay traveller (7)
- Have trouble getting up? (7)
- Fair old changes in a U.S. State (7)
- Remaining partner (7)
- Her sisters are not really her sisters (6)
- A negative which, if flat, isn't developed (6)
- One may fall into it by mistake (5)
- Listener in tears (3)

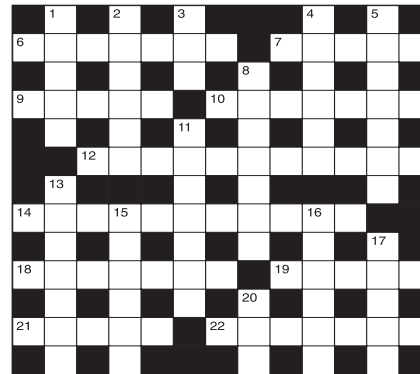
Quick Clues:

Across

- See (7)
- A twist (5)
- Fool (5)
- Attribute (7)
- Simplicity (11)
- Blessing (11)
- Storm (7)
- Expel (5)
- Thin (5)
- Hide (7)

Down

- Senseless (5)
- Reply (6)
- Employ (3)
- Morose (6)
- Bestial (7)
- Throb (7)
- Oval (7)
- Sundry (7)
- Swell (6)
- Swear (6)
- Sharp (5)
- Fresh (3)



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Crossroads; 7 Roost; 8 Locusts; 10 Preserve; 11 Opal; 13 Privet; 15 Sponge; 17 Palm; 18 Stickers; 21 Rampage; 22 Fused; 23 Economical. Down: 1 Clove; 2 On the set; 3 Saliva; 4 Once; 5 Duster; 6 Graph paper; 9 Silverside; 12 Specific; 14 Islamic; 16 Stream; 19 Ease; 20 Pain. QUICK - Across: 1 By and large; 7 React; 8 Ceramic; 10 Frontier; 11 Glum; 13 Recede; 15 Averse; 17 Norm; 18 Calmness; 21 Edifice; 22 Roast; 23 Play truant. Down: 1 Bravo; 2 Attitude; 3 Decree; 4 Ace; 5 Gambler; 6 Preference; 9 Compensate; 12 Ave Maria; 14 Cordial; 16 Career; 19 Exact; 20 Tiny.

Sudoku

Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

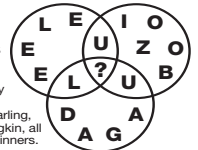
7	3	1	9	2	7	5	4	6
6	8	3	4	1	9	2	7	5
1	9	4	2	5	6	3	8	7
2	5	7	9	8	1	4	3	6
8	3	1	6	4	2	7	5	9
5	4	9	2	3	7	1	8	6
4	1	6	3	7	8	5	9	2
3	2	5	1	9	6	8	4	7
9	7	8	5	4	2	3	6	1

			9		8	6		
7		1		4				
2	3			7	4	1		
1				2			8	
	4		6		5			
9			8			3		
	9	8	7			5	3	
3			9			8		
6	1			8	2			

Circlegram

Replace the question mark with a letter so that the letters within each circle can be arranged to form words on a common theme. What are the three words, and the letter represented by the question mark?

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:
The letter represented by the question mark is G. Stirling, Gormley, Hodgkin, all Turner Prize winners.



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WORD SEARCH
NUMBER CRUNCH

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The Phantom of the Opera in Manchester

Day Excursion, Saturday 5 May 2012

Don't miss this spectacular new production of Andrew Lloyd Webber's The Phantom of the Opera. With an exciting new design and staging, be amongst the first to surrender to the music of the night and fall in love with the Phantom in his new guise all over again!

- A Grand Tier seat with a face value of £41 for a matinee performance of The Phantom of the Opera at the Palace Theatre, Manchester on Saturday 5 May 2012. (Ticket upgrades are available at a supplement)
- Free time in Manchester
- Return coach travel from Dudley, Walsall & Wolverhampton

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The price for terraced home has been reduced



A lounge, 14ft 9in by 14ft 8in, has living flame gas fire

A THREE-BEDROOM end terrace home in the desirable location of Merry Hill on the western fringe of Wolverhampton is for sale, now at offers around £124,950.

Ideally situated for a wide range of local amenities including shops and schooling, restaurants and banking, plus bus routes, the property offers well kept accommodation benefiting from double glazing and radiator central heating, gardens, rear garage, parking area and further garage within a nearby block.

Inside the dining area, 9ft 2in by 8ft 7in, has an opening onto the lounge and archway to the kitchen measuring 9ft 11in by 5ft 10in and fitted with a range

of wall and base units with roll edge work surfaces, inset sink, drainer and mixer tap, integrated gas hob, electric oven with grill and extractor hood.

The lounge, 14ft 9in by 14ft 8in, has a living flame gas fire with marble back and tiled hearth with French doors to the rear garden.

On the first floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with P-shaped panel bath with glazed screen and electric shower over, wash basin and dual flush wc.

Outside to the front is a lawn area with pathway, with a lawn and flower border to the side and gate to the rear garden and access to the garage.

The rear garden is mostly slatted with raised flowerbeds, shed and inside door to garage.

Call Rees Page on 01902 577777 for details.



This end terrace home is on the market for £124,950

It's an ideal family home



This detached in Brunel Grove is on the market for offers based on £177,500

A MODERN, detached property which has been extensively extended and improved to create an ideal family home is on the market based on offers around £177,500.

The property in Brunel Grove, Perton, benefits from gas fire radiator central heating and uPVC double glazing with features including entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, comprehensively fitted kitchen diner, separate sitting room, conservatory, master bedroom with en suite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom.

The property stands back from the road in a cul-de-sac position and is

approached via a block-paved driveway providing off-road parking for a number of cars and access to the integral utility garage, with the rear garden backing onto woodland.

Amenities

Convenient for a wide range of local amenities and Wolverhampton city centre within five miles, the agents say viewing is essential. On the grounds floor the lounge, 14ft 3in by 10ft 2in, has a fireplace with living flame gas fire and door to the kitchen diner measuring 13ft 2in by 10ft and with a range of wall, base and drawer units, single drainer sink unit with mixer tap, roll

edge work surfaces and space for cooker with extractor hood over.

The separate sitting room, 15ft 3in by 7ft 2in, has a door to the garage and double doors to the conservatory which is 8ft 11in by 8ft 2in, with double doors to the rear garden.

On the first floor the master bedroom has an en-suite, and there are three further bedrooms and a bathroom.

The utility garage has plumbing for a washing machine, with the rear garden having a paved patio area.

Call Stevenon on 01902 753131 for further information.

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HALESOWEN, OXENTON CROFT

A Well Presented Three Bedroom Detached Property on the Popular Squirrels Estate, comprising of: Shower Cubical in Master Bedroom, Living Room, Kitchen with Dining Area, Downstairs WC, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing Throughout, Garage, Driveway for Three Cars. Viewing Recommended.

£750 PCM



HALESOWEN, LOWFIELD CLOSE

A lovely re-furnished Semi Detached House, set within a cul-de-sac location comprising of: Spacious Lounge, Modern Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Three Generous Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate Shower, Garage and Driveway, Private Rear Gardens. 6/9 Months Let Only!

£650 PCM



HALESOWEN, LONG LANE

A fully refurbished three bedroom detached property, close to the railway station and Blackheath town centre, comprising of: Two Double and One Single Bedrooms, Large Lounge with Dining Area, Breakfast Kitchen with all integrated White Goods, Bathroom with White P Shaped Bath and Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Parking Available for One Car. Viewing Highly Recommended

£595 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MARY MACARTHUR DRIVE

An unfurnished semi detached house, close to local transport, and shops, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Garage, Cul-de-sac, Parking, Gardens

£575 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, AQUA COURT, CARDALE STREET

This new build ground floor apartment, a stones throw away from Blackheath town centre comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms with One with En-Suite Shower Room, Open Plan Lounge/Kitchen, House Bathroom but No Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking Space, Viewing Highly Recommended.

£550 PCM



HALESOWEN, CAVALIER DRIVE

This beautifully presented and well looked after first floor apartment is centrally located to Halesowen, within easy reach of the town centre and local bus stations, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Large Lounge with Access to Your Own Balcony, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking Space for One Car. A Must See Property

£525 PCM



WORDSLEY, COOKNELL DRIVE

An Unfurnished modern semi-detached house, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, En-Suite to Master Bedroom, Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Driveway Parking, Gardens

£525 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, MOSSVALE CLOSE

Being tastefully re-furnished to a high standard and within walking distance of Old Hill train station is this three bedroom mid-terrace property, comprising of: Two Large Double and One Large Single Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, House Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs WC, Small Rear Garden, Garage at Rear of Property. Available Immediately.

£525 PCM



TIVIDALE, LINDEN AVENUE

Three Bedroom Semi-Detached House. Extensively Refurbished with New Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing and comprises of: Entrance Hall, Lounge, Refitted Kitchen and Bathroom, Three Double Bedrooms. Available Immediately.

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, BEECHER ROAD

An unfurnished semi detached house, briefly comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Lounge, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Downstairs Bathroom, Laundry Room, En-Suite Shower Room to Master Bedroom, Driveway Parking, Front and rear gardens. A Value for Money Property.

£525 PCM



HALESOWEN, HAGLEY ROAD

An unfurnished mid terrace house, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Lovely Rear Garden, On Road Parking, Close to Town Centre.

£500 PCM



HALESOWEN, TENTERFIELDS

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CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

This lovely part furnished second floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, One with Wardrobes, Lounge with Brown L Shaped Sofa, Fitted Kitchen with Small Fridge, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Garden

£495 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

This lovely and well kept unfurnished second floor flat briefly comprises of: Two Bedrooms, Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking Space

£475 PCM



TIPTON, FERGUSON DRIVE

A lovely modern first floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Storage Heating, Double Glazing, Two Allocated Parking Spaces, Communal Gardens, Internal Viewing Recommended.

£475 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, PEAR TREE LANE

This lovely unfurnished modern first floor apartment, located in a popular area, and close to local train station and buses, comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking Space

£475 PCM



ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

A Part furnished apartment close to local amenities, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Parking

£445 PCM



CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

This lovely unfurnished ground floor apartment, with views over the canal and on a popular development, comprising of: One Bedroom, Spacious Lounge with Patio Doors onto a Private Balcony, Fitted Kitchen with Small Fridge and Washing Machine, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Shower, Allocated Parking, Communal Garden

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BRIERLEY HILL, CHURCH HILL

Located within walking distance to Briarley Hill and Merry Hill, is this modernised second floor apartment, briefly comprising of: Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Spacious Lounge

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MOTING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONICLE MOTORING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

Drop-top Mini is most selfish ever but so stylish

WHO said greed was bad? Doing the right thing is usually shorthand for being selfless and putting the needs of others first.

But at what point do you get to do something for yourself? This logic applies as much to cars as it does to where you go on holiday.

Happily, Mini can now help you treat yourself with the most selfish Mini to date – the Roadster.

It's not really selfish of course; it's just biased towards the needs of the driver and possible passenger as this is the first two-seater drop-top Mini.

It's not the only Mini with a folding fabric roof of course, as there's been a Mini Convertible from the first generation model.

But that car is based on the hatchback while the Roadster is based on the Mini Coupe, which makes it something of a different animal. For starters, the lack of a fixed metal roof may give it the edge over the Coupe in some people's eyes – whether roof up

By Matt Joy

or down, the Roadster is a pretty little thing and the typical Mini styling cues translate well to the open-air shape.

Like all Minis, there's an element of choosing your own style, with colour and wheel combinations having a big impact on the overall look.

But it has a pert rump, chrome rollover bars and clean lines where the roof folds away, and therefore most people will find it ticks the box marked 'attractive' right from the off.

Losing seating for two in the back might seem like a significant sacrifice, but if you can live with that then the upshot is more boot space. A total of 240 litres of storage is on offer in the rear compartment, regardless of whether the roof is up or down, and behind the seats there's a through-loading facility, the kind of practical-

ity you don't really expect from a car like this. In the cabin there's not a huge amount of storage space for oddments, but you can reach into the back without any fuss.

The same goes for the roof mechanism. Whether you opt for the manual or semi-automatic roof option, folding or raising the roof is the work of a moment.

Raising the roof requires you to reach behind to mechanically release the roof from its stowed position, but you should soon be able to do this without looking. The extra-lazy among you will appreciate the electric assistance.

Popular

Under the bonnet the Roadster comes in four flavours: Cooper and Cooper S, Cooper SD and John Cooper Works, but it's the Cooper S which is likely to be the most popular petrol option.

With 182bhp and 177lb.ft of torque (with an overboost facility up to 192lb.ft), it gets along as smartly as you would hope.

In fact the linear delivery of the engine almost disguises how fast it is; it revs keenly and without any power peaks, then you look down at the speedometer and realise just how quickly it has accelerated.

There's also a pleasing, purposeful noise coming from the exhaust – well short of raucous or loud – but enough to remind you this is a car designed for fun.

The theme continues when you hit the first bend. All convertible cars are compromised to a degree by the absence of a metal roof holding them together, but in truth the only time you even notice is if you slap into a particularly bad bump at speed.

The rest of the time the Mini Roadster displays all the vim and enthusiasm of its siblings, turning in keenly, gripping strongly and encouraging you to exploit its abilities.

Yes, in ultimate terms the Coupe would offer a purer drive, but on the one day of the year that mattered, you'd miss the 100-odd days of sunshine-bathed, roof-down motoring.

What makes all this fun even more pleasurable is that you don't have to sell your soul to do it.

The list price is not insignificant, but neither is it expensive for a two-seater roadster with a powerful turbocharged engine.

It's also only £600 more than the less pretty and less fun Convertible.

But with a combined fuel economy figure of 47.1mpg and CO2 emissions of 139g/km, it certainly doesn't cost sports car money to run.

Although, like all Minis, resisting the temptation to make it uniquely yours will be hard to resist.

Good luck keeping your sensible head on.



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City slicker – new the Skoda Yeti Urban in Candy White cuts a dash on the streets of London

New Yeti comes packed with its no cost extras

ŠKODA is launching a limited-edition version of its critically acclaimed Yeti compact SUV.

The Yeti Urban is based on the popular SE trim, but features up to £2,450 worth of extra equipment at no extra cost when compared to the SE.

The ŠKODA Yeti compact SUV has been a huge success since it was launched in 2009 – more than 8,800 have been registered in the UK.

It won 12 independent product awards along the way, and charmed UK car buyers with its on-road performance, family orientated practicality and rugged styling. This new model – restricted to just 750 cars – will extend that appeal to younger and more style-conscious UK buyers.

The Yeti Urban also sets a new

benchmark for technology in ŠKODA cars. It's the first model to be sold in the UK with DAB digital radio as standard. Over and above SE trim, Yeti Urban includes Amundsen+ satellite navigation, Bluetooth connectivity and a multi-function steering wheel to control the audio system and telephone.

Additional design features include 17-inch black-and-chrome 'Matterhorn' alloys, wheel arch extensions, chrome side strips, silver door mirror caps, silver roof rails and stylish eye-catching roof stripes. Inside, customers have the choice of red or black sports seats and sunset glass in the rear.

The Yeti Urban is available in two-wheel-drive with manual transmission only, and comes with a choice of two engines. The petrol option is the frugal

1.2-litre TSI 105PS, which offers fuel economy of 44.1mpg (combined) and CO2 emissions of 149g/km. For diesel fans there's the popular 2.0-litre TDI CR 110PS DPF, which offers figures of 52.3mpg (combined) and CO2 emissions of 140g/km.

The car's exterior can be finished in Black Magic pearl effect, Candy White, Brilliant Silver metallic and Steel Grey metallic.

ŠKODA retailers have a number of accessories on offer which include stainless steel pedals (£80), sports exhaust trim (£50), and Nextbase Click 9 Lite Duo portable DVD player with twin 9-inch screens (£315).

The ŠKODA Yeti Urban is on sale from next month at £16,900 OTR for the petrol model and £18,330 OTR for the diesel.

Hyundai Tourer takes best business estate award



The Hyundai i40 has now won three awards after its Business Car Manager's accolade

THE HYUNDAI i40 Tourer has held off well-established rivals to take the overall title of Best Estate Car in Business Car Manager's annual awards.

The awards identify the top company cars across nine distinct categories, and the Hyundai i40 was chosen as the winner above rivals such as the Ford Mondeo Estate, Volvo V50 Drive and Skoda Octavia Estate.

Tony Whitehorn, President and CEO Hyundai Motor UK, said: "To take the Best Estate Car award is a huge honour for us and it bears testimony to just how well the i40 Tourer

performs. The lowest BiK tax rates coupled with ultra-efficient engines, premium levels of equipment and space and practicality make the i40 Tourer the ideal business estate car."

Ralph Morton, Editor of Business Car Manager, said: "We've brought together the very best and while they straddle a mix of classes and sectors, they're united by one attribute – they're all great additions to your business."

"Hyundai's continued growth in the UK has seen it launch several new top-quality cars for business users. The i40 Tourer is one such car that fully deserves this award as it provides a compelling alternative to the established rivals. If you also factor in low

running costs and a 5 Year Triple Care warranty you get an estate car that's a cut above."

The Business Car Manager Best Estate Car Award is the third major honour that the i40 Tourer has won since its launch in September last year. It has already won the Best Estate Car title at the 2011 Scottish Car of the Year Awards along with the Golden Award at the 2011 EuroCarBody Conference.

With BiK rates starting at 13 per cent and insurance group ratings beginning at 12E, the Hyundai i40 Tourer 115PS Blue Drive model is capable of 65.7mpg on the combined cycle with emissions rated at just 113g/km – among the best figures in the segment.

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JEEP CHEROKEE 2.5 CRD SPORT 53 Reg, 5-dr, Blue Metallic, AC, Alloys, 80k, FSH	£3995
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PEUGEOT 207 1.4 S 07 Reg, 3-dr, Grey Metallic, AC, 43k, FSH, 1 Owner	£4695
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VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi LIFE 57 Reg, 5-dr, Panacotta, AC, 67k, SH	£4995
PEUGEOT 307 1.6 HDi S ESTATE 57 Reg, 5-dr, Silver AC, 61k, FSH	£5495
VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.3 CDTi CLUB 07 Reg, 5-dr, Metro Blue, AC, 45k, 1 owner, FSH	£5495
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SPORTS

RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE Cabriolet, 04 Reg, Gold Met, Grey Leather, AC, Alloys, 50k, FSH	£3995
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RENAULT MEGANE 1.6 DYNAMIQUE CABRIOLET 05 Reg, Gold Metallic, AC, Alloys, 43k, FSH	**SOLD**
SAAB 9-3 2.0T AERO Cabriolet, 06 Reg, Black, with White Leather, AC, Alloys, 47k, FSH	**SOLD**
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FORD FOCUS C-MAX 1.6 TDCi GHIA Auto 06 Reg, Grey, AC, Alloys, 67k, FSH	**SOLD**
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VAUXHALL'S APPROVED BODY SHOP STATUS FOR LOCAL FAMILY BUSINESS...

Dudley Motor Company, the core dealership for the Dudley Market Area that also consists of T Wall Garages, Halesowen Motor House and Stourbridge Motor House has been awarded a prestigious accolade as Winners of the Vauxhall Chairman's Award for Excellence 2011.

To achieve this honour the group had to meet the high standards required by Vauxhall in 4 main areas including high scores in customer surveys for the sales and service departments, cementing what the family run business has been striving to achieve for nearly 60 years, namely



Mike Pugh and Roy Dunn of BodyKraft with Rob Gilbert, General Manager of Dudley Motor Company and Andy Broughton, Vauxhall UK Bodyshop Area Manager

excellent standards in customer satisfaction where personal service counts.

Further news for the group is that Dudley Motor Company in conjunction with BodyKraft of Dudley have been accredited with the Vauxhall Approved Body Shop Programme. This means that any customers whose cars need an accident repair can call the Vauxhall Accident Management on 0800 010 304 for 24/7 emergency service.

Vehicles booked in with BodyKraft will be repaired under the strict quality control of Vauxhall's Body Shop that is to the highest standard. The latest technology along with the highest quality paint and materials are used with genuine Vauxhall body panel and parts if required. All repairs are guaranteed for a minimum of three years giving the customer complete peace of mind during what can be a stressful period. The Vauxhall Accident Management takes all this pressure away from the customer, returning the car to you in the same condition, if not better than before the accident and the repairs



meet such high quality that it protects the residual value of your vehicle.

Rob Gilbert, General Manager of Dudley Motor Company, has had a working relationship with Mike Pugh, Managing Director of BodyKraft, for the past 28 years. Both businesses are family owned delivering a quality personal service to their customers. Between both companies they employ over 300 people in the Dudley Borough.

BodyKraft have employed a local mobile estimator who will travel between the four dealerships in the Dudley Market Area

or will visit your home or place of work to estimate the vehicle's damage if it is more convenient for you. BodyKraft has over 70 courtesy vehicles at their disposal to keep customers on the road during their repair.

Any customers of Dudley Motor Company, T Wall Garages, Halesowen Motor House and Stourbridge Motor House who would wish to take advantage of the free Accident Management Assistant Scheme need only to call into their supplying dealer to collect their free pack.

All cars that go into the Vauxhall Appointed Body Shop are always checked for vehicle enhancements. These will be carried out free of charge by the supplying dealer before the car is returned to you.

Remember, the first call you must make if you are involved in an accident is the Accident Management Helpline on 0800 010 304.

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TIPS OF THE WEEK

If things don't seem to be going according to plan, don't forget builders aren't mind readers. Take a moment to spell out your problem and explain carefully what you do want.

Talk to the 'main person'. Telling sub-contractors to change things mid-construction will not only cause problems within the team but also confuse everyone as to what it is you really want.

If you are planning to sell your home make don't ignore 'unseen factors' such as damp proofing, tidy gutting, efficient drains, good pointing and secure roof tiles. These are all factors that may persuade a buyer to put an offer on your house rather than the one next door.

Finally, now that spring has arrived don't forget to check exterior timber for signs of decay and check your exterior paintwork to see how it has held up over the winter.

The Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the largest trade association in the UK construction industry, <http://www.fmb.org.uk/fab/>.



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BAILEY RANGER 500 201 5-berth, good condition, many extras. £4,449. 01562 751546.

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6 berth Motorhome, 2.8TD, 26k, recently re-upholstered, Flama Awning, bike rack inc, 6 months tax, 12 months MoT, very good condition. £14,500 ono. 07720 648520.

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3. Ensure that you are given any KC documentation, if pedigree.

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AUDI A3 2.0FSI SPORT Manual, 6 speed, petrol, 3 door hatchback, black, 2005, 63k miles, abs, air bags, air con, central locking, pas, alloys, radio/CD, Trip computer, Sports Seats. Full Audi service history, MoT/tax June 2012. Well below average miles. Interior valet 2012. Excellent condition. £7,000. 07984 169726.

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* AUDI A4 TDI, 90k, 1 owner, fsh, 130SE, tidy car, economical, MoT, tax, £4,400 one. 07511 724291.

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CITROEN C1 VT 2009, only 19500 miles, red, one careful owner from new, 12 months MoT/tax, selling due to illness, excellent condition, £4,495. 07739 053575.

MUST BE SEEN

CITROEN C2 1.4 VTR DIESEL 2008, BLACK, 12 months MoT, 12 months Tax. One lady owner from new. Very low mileage (18,000 miles). Only £30 Tax, Full spec, Air con, CD player, spotlights. Excellent condition. £5,195 one. 0780 9687566 or 01743 240645.

LOW MILEAGE

FORD FIESTA 1.25 Zetec, 56 reg, silver, 5dr, tax, nine months MoT, 54,000 miles, lady owner, £3,450 one. 07961 314354.

FORD FIESTA 1.4 Zetec, 52 reg, silver, 5dr, tax, nine months MoT, 54,000 miles, lady owner, £3,450 one. 07961 314354.

FORD FIESTA Ghia, 2004, 33,400 miles, black, central locking, pas, alloys, CD, petrol, nice car, first to see will buy, £2,350 one. 07747 311729.

FORD FIESTA STYLE 1.25 Zetec Petrol, 2dr, 35,000 miles, 10 months MoT, tax, excellent condition. Any trial £2,695. 01902 651292 / 07803 604469.

FORD KA ZETEC SPORT 1.3, 07, metallic silver, 12 months MoT, Taxed, £3,500, o.n.o. 01902 789215.

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2003, 03 reg, 5dr, only 39,000 miles, metallic silver, MoT February 2013, pas, AC, CL. Drives like new.

£2,895.

01902 661115 - 07946 587290.

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LAND ROVER FREELANDER 2.2 TD4 e GS

silver, diesel, 4x4, 59 reg, only 8,500 miles, superb condition, one private owner sale due to bereavement. £17,500 one. Stafford 01889 580379.

LANDROVER DISCOVERY TD5 GS, 2003, auto, fsh, silver, just serviced, 82k, excellent condition, £7,500. 01384 281273.

LOW MILEAGE

MAXDA RX8 (231) COUPE First registered December 2007, (57 plate).

11,500 miles only. All the standard spec, plus Galaxy grey with stone leather heated electric seats and parking sensors. Factory fitted sports pack. Full Mazda service history. Super guarded paintwork and interior. MoT till Dec 2012. £6,750. Telephone 01952 605606.

MAZDA 3 FSH 2.1, 1.6, 5dr, hatch, 2005, 53k, one lady driver from new. AC, FSH, tax, MoT, £3,450. 01746 780590 / 07896 817613.

MAZDA RX8 231PS 05 reg, met grey, leather, Sat Nav, 68k, fsh, excellent condition, full electric, MoT, 6CD, electric leather heated seats, Bose sound system. £3,250. 07534 307233.

MERCEDES BENZ SLK 230 CONVERTIBLE 2003, 64,000 miles, auto, metallic black, cruise, CD, black leather heated electric seats, Mercedes fsh, tax, full MoT, bought from Mercedes, excellent condition. £6,900. Telephone 07779 197769.

MERCEDES C Class Coupe 190 Kompressor, 03 reg, MoT and Tax June, leather int, SH, alloys, 89K, £3,400 one. 07964 644812.

MERCEDES E 200 CLASSIC 51 reg, silver, Manual, only 94,000 miles, only r previous owner. FSH, Tax and MoT Full Merc spec. Excellent condition inside and out. £1,695. 01902 673406 or 07799 203285.

MERCEDES SLK 200 auto, silver, 2007 reg, 13,000 miles, tax, MoT, fsh, top spec, £14,450 v.g. 07737 604711 / 01543 509009.



MG TF 1.8 STEPSPEED

02 reg, fsh, MoT July. Genuine low mileage 63,000 miles.

Excellent condition. £2,100 one. 07817 098036.

MG TF CONVERTIBLE, 03 immobiliser, low miles, tax Jul, MoT Feb, alloys, excellent condition. £2,300 one. 07706 008672.

MG TF CONVERTIBLE 1.6 2005, Black, 33,000 miles, 3 months MoT, new tyres, AC, E/W, CL, £3,350 one. 07792 6565.

MG ZR 1.4 grey, 2005, 4 door, 48k miles, 1 owner, last MoT June 2012, e/w, abs, half leather, interior, alarm, petrol, CD player, £2,300 one. 07870 384014.

MITSUBISHI PAJERO 2.8 INTERCOOLER L reg, excellent condition, good runner, many new parts. £1,700 one. Call 07581 015673 for more details.

NISSAN 200SX high miles but drives as new, full MoT, loads of history, body needs attention, £1,000 no offers. 07877 722908.

NISSAN MICRA Silver, 5dr, 2005, 34,000 miles, full leather, silver, great condition in/out, 65k, £2,200 one. 07738 430489.

CONVERTIBLE

PEUGEOT 206CC ALLURE

53 plate, blue, abs, electric windows, air bag, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, metallic paint, central locking, pas, alloys, stereo, CD, leather interior, petrol, chrome headrests. Lady owner. Reluctant sale. Summer's coming! £2,395 one. 07740 931111.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 SPORT, 2dr, Petrol, 28,000 miles. Full MoT 08 plate. Grey, £5,300. Telephone 07904 079961.

PEUGEOT 307 1.4 2003, silver, 5dr, 33k, full MoT/tax, fsh, CL, E/W, RCL, EM, alloys, good condition, £2,200 one. 07432 677356.

PEUGEOT 307 1.6 Rapier, 02 reg, 5dr, blue, petrol, tax October 2012, MoT April 2013, 41k, £1,850 one. 07794 889646.

RANGE ROVER 1998, fsh, 2.5TD auto, leather, no condition, tax, long MoT bargain £2,995 one. 07930 140130.

RANGE ROVER 2.5SDSE AUTO 1998, red, full MoT, 18,000 miles, good condition, £3,000 one. Telephone 07926 067452.

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RENAULT MEGANE CABRIOLET 52 reg, 2.0, full tax and MoT, red, leather interior, 78,000 miles, 1 lady owner, FSH, 1st to see will buy. £2,200. 01384 882462.

RENAULT MEGANE, 2005, silver, 12 months MoT, low miles, spotless inside, will need 2 new tyres for next MoT, £2,150 one. 01785 712747.

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SPORT

thechronicle

Albion's title hopes suffer a setback

Albion Reserves 0 Blackburn Reserves 2
ALBION missed the chance to claim second place in the Barclays Premier Reserve League (South) table as a goal in each half handed Blackburn victory.

The Eagles' fading title chances took a major blow as they failed to leapfrog second-placed Arsenal, who have played two more games.

Defeat meant they did not cash in on leaders Villa's 4-1 defeat by Liverpool on Monday and they remain six points behind their local rivals with four games to play – one more than Villa.

Rovers bossed the behind-closed-door clash at Albion's training ground and claimed the points courtesy of Nick Blackman's 40th-minute opener and Osayamen Osawe's 63rd-minute tap-in.

Matthew Pearson missed an excellent early chance for Rovers and, in the 24th minute, Adil Nabi curled a 30-yard free-kick just wide for the hosts.

Five minutes from the interval Blackburn latched onto Jamie MacLaren's pull-back to find the back of the net with a fierce volley from the edge of the box and give his side a half-time advantage.

Kemar Roofe fired well over for Albion from the left-hand edge of the box on 55 after good work by Donervorn Daniels to find him. But Rovers then took charge and Osawe doubled the lead from close range in the 63rd minute after Wesley Atkinson was unable to clear MacLaren's low centre.

Albion sub Joel Ambalu went close to grabbing a consolation goal in the 89th minute after playing a one-two with Niall Wellington but he shot wide.

Albion (4-4-2): L. Daniels, Atkinson, D. Daniels, Gayle, Wellington, Nabi, Turton (Edge, 35 (Goldsmith, 78)), Birch, Roofe (Ambalu, 86); Sawyers, A. Jones. Subs not used: Tunnicliffe, Rose (gk).

Maxwell is out-gunned

BIRMINGHAM'S Max Maxwell was comfortably outpointed in his shot at the British light middleweight title against champion Brian Rose.

Rose claimed a unanimous points win at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool, losing just one of the 12 rounds.

Skipper leads by example

Dudley Heathens 47 Stoke 43
ADAM ROYNON produced a true captain's ride in the final race to settle a terrific Staffs Cup contest in the Heathens' favour.

Dudley led by two points going into heat 15 and faced the Stoke big guns Richie Worrall and Ashley Birks. But Roynon completed a brilliant performance by blocking Worrall's outside run off the second bend and racing clear to victory.

And a very impressive Tom Perry also did his bit by moving inside Birks midway through the race, meaning Heathens will take a four-point advantage into the second leg at Loomer Road on April 14.

Heathens saw their early six-point advantage clawed back with their cause not helped by two uncharacteristic falls on the first bend by Ashley Morris.

And debutant Dan Greenwood was also out of luck in heat eight as he fell under Ben Reade's challenge and also brought down

Jaimie Pickard, with the Potters levelling the scores in the re-run.

It stayed that way until a trading of 4-2s in heats 12 and 13, Roynon dropping his only points in the latter. But Byron Bekker – who enjoyed a solid debut – took a vital win in heat 14 with Darryl Ritchings collecting third place to put the Heathens in front. Roynon and Perry then delighted the home fans with their advantage in the decider.

Manager Will Pottinger said: "We're very pleased to get a win in our opening meeting against a strong side, and it was a great performance in heat 15 by Adam and Tom."

"I thought there were plenty of encouraging signs. There's plenty to work with and overall it was a positive night."

Heathens: Adam Roynon 14, Tom Perry 12, Byron Bekker 8+3, Darryl Ritchings 6+1, Dan Greenwood 3, James White-Williams 2, Ashley Morris 2.

Stoke: Richie Worrall 12+1, Ben Reade 10+1, Tony Atkin 7+1, Ashley Birks 6, Jaimie Pickard 4+1, Oliver Greenwood 4+1, Dan Berwick 0.



Adam Roynon leads from James White Williams and Richie Worrall Pic: Jon Hipkiss

East boys take the in-house honours

HALAS HAWKS EAST UNDER-15s took the bragging rights as they beat stalwarts **Halas Hawks North 4-0** in Division One of the Stourbridge & District Youth League.

Josh March, Mitchell Tomlinson, Dan Willetts and Kane Campbell were on target for the boys from the East.

Josh Cater was the match-winner for **Halas Hawks Under-16s** as they beat **Perrywoods**.

Cater netted both goals in a 2-0 win. A penalty save from James Andrews ensured a clean sheet.

Mohamed Yafai rattled home a hat-trick to fire **Halas Hawks Under-12s** to a 6-0 win over Division Two rivals **Kewford East**.

Nick Bennett (2) and Mohammed Mohamed joined Yafai on the score-sheet.

Halas Hawks East Under-9s picked up a battling point against unbeaten **Trysull Tigers East**.

After falling behind Hawks rallied to grab a share of the spoils thanks to a strike from Jack Plant.

George and Hall spark a goal blitz

Forndale 0 Hasbury Girls 11 HOT-SHOTS Leah George and Ellis Hall turned on the style as Hasbury Girls Under-14s hit the goal trail against Ferndale in Division One of the Stourbridge League.

George found the net five times and Hall four to lead Hasbury to a resounding 11-0 success.

Hasbury started very strong and a quick-fire treble from George put them in charge.

After a brief spell off the pitch to treat an injury, George marked her return to the action by netting her fourth goal.

Hall then got in on the scoring act with Levi Cheadle doing likewise to make it 7-0 at half-time.

Hasbury started where they left off after the break with George hitting the target again.

Hall then struck twice to complete her hat-trick before rounding off the scoring late on.

Tame surrender from the bickering Baggies

Everton 2 Albion 0

ALBION displayed plenty of aggression at Goodison Park on Saturday.

Unfortunately for the travelling supporters who made the trip to Merseyside, Everton weren't the ones on the receiving end.

Peter Odemwingie's petulant squabble with Hawthorns team-mate Ben Foster created an unseemly image by which Baggies fans could remember an otherwise drab day on Merseyside.

Yet it probably won't be the picture that most angers Roy Hodgson.

The Hawthorns head coach will be more concerned by another insipid display from his team, whose impressive season is in danger of petering out into a damp squib of a finish.

Hodgson, his staff and his players bristle at suggestions a handy advantage over the teams embroiled in the real relegation scrap has blunted their competitive edge since three fabulous wins propelled them to a position of relative safety.

Weight

But their promises that they will not 'ease up' in the season's home straight would carry much more weight if they could back up the words with actions.

Saturday's dire defeat on Merseyside was the latest in a short series of displays that have lacked even a fraction of the urgency and zest that helped them deliver stunning successes against Wolves and Sunderland and a landmark Hawthorns victory over Chelsea.

Even a horrendous sequence of results between now and May is unlikely to see Hodgson's men dragged back into the bottom three.

It would be hugely unfortunate, however,



Everton striker Nikica Jelavic is challenged by Baggies centre-half Gareth McAuley

if a campaign that has brought so much evidence of real progress at The Hawthorns was to end with Albion and their fans looking nervously over their shoulders, especially when they were eyeing a real chance of a top-10 finish just a few short weeks ago.

Hodgson will know, though, that performances like Saturday's are a sure-fire way for his team to make hard work of reaching the 40-point mark that remains their minimum requirement for the year.

Poster and Odemwingie's head-to-head clash was the most animated the Baggies became during an afternoon when, despite a couple of moments of genuine misfortune, they never looked in the mood to blow an in-

form Toffees side off course.

Hodgson's own part in the disappointing day is impossible to ignore completely.

For all the denials from the boss and his players, the inevitable speculation over his future career plans cannot be anything other than a distraction for a team he has moulded so skilfully into a coherent Premier League unit.

And his desire to test the depth of his squad during what remains of the season has brought a series of experiments in recent weeks that appear to have destabilised a side that had built up a real head of steam.

Another raft of changes and a surprising switch of system on Saturday cannot have

aided the quest to restore some attacking cohesion.

Yet ultimately it is the players themselves who have most questions to answer.

After a bright enough opening 15 minutes of shadow boxing at Goodison Park, they rarely threatened to land a blow once their hosts increased the tempo of a largely forgettable contest.

And defeat always looked on the cards once two unlucky breaks midway through the first half left them playing catch-up.

First, Gareth McAuley's attempted block on 18 minutes turned into a decisive deflection that sent Leon Osman's 20-yard shot past a helpless Foster to give David Moyes' men the lead.

Then, 10 minutes later, a rare moment of promise from the visitors ended with Chris Brunt's goal-bound effort striking team-mate Shane Long and bouncing to safety after Paul Scharrer had seen his initial shot parried by Tim Howard.

The Baggies' next-best opening saw Long denied the chance to head home Liam Ridgewell's cross by Leighton Baines' fine interception, but Foster also had to rescue his side with a save to keep out Marouane Fellaini's shot.

The subsequent ear-bashing for Odemwingie was an early sign of their discord. That would eventually boil over, but not before Victor Anichebe wrapped up the points for Everton midway through the second half.

The Nigerian substitute was given all the time he needed on the edge of the box to blast home his side's second.

Foster made another smart save to deny Steven Pienaar, and another routine block with five minutes remaining sparked his spat with Odemwingie.

The clash at last suggested that the afternoon's events had hurt Hodgson's men. But their fans would have liked to see that a little sooner and a little more often.

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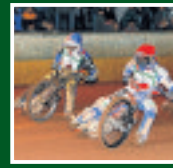
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SPORT

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Leading role
Skipper sees Heathens
to cup success
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Bitter taste
Albion come unstuck
against the Toffees
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e-mail: chronsport@expressandstar.co.uk

Matt looks for a gloss finish to his bowls

THE CCF Open crown green bowling competition reaches its climax at West Bromwich Football Supporters Club on Sunday.

A £1,000 first prize is up for grabs and a place in the prestigious British Crown Green Bowling Association Champion of Champions event.

This year's competition, now into its 34th year, has once again seen top players from across the country take part and this is reflected in bowlers from 10 different counties appearing in the final 32.

Among the local hopes is Matt Hocknull, from Moor Lane, who impressed when qualifying and will no doubt receive plenty of vocal support.

He looks to be well matched with his opening opponent, Northfield's Jason Galvin, although his green knowledge should just give him the edge.

Another local hoping for success is county star Steve Darling, from the George, Warley, who faces Shrewsbury's Clay Flatley.

The first round draw has produced some fascinating matches in what is again an extremely strong field.

One of the top opening games is between Shropshire county star and former Waterloo winner Andrew Moss and the prolific Potteries winner and former Champion of Champions Kerry Morris.

Competition starts at 11am.

A chance to net some time to play

SANDWELL Leisure Trust and Grasshoppers Netball Club are offering the chance to play netball and get fit for summer at Haden Hill Leisure Centre on Tuesdays between 6pm and 7pm.

To start the sessions the first 10 places each Tuesday are free for five weeks from April 24 until May 22.

The sessions are designed for people who used to play and have not played for a while or those who have always wanted to try netball.

For more information go to www.grasshoppers-netball.co.uk or contact Gayna 07981 870324 or Matt Hill, physical activity development officer on 0845 659 4815 (select option 0) or 07879 890252.

Reid is an instant hit for Halesowen

CRAIG REID celebrated an impressive Halesowen debut by heading home a superb first-half winner to clinch the Evo-Stik League Southern Division One South and West points.

The left-sided midfielder met Andrew Westwood's fine right-wing cross perfectly to plant a 20th-minute header beyond Bridgwater goalkeeper Luke Purnell for the only goal of the game.

The bumpy, dry playing surface made ball control difficult but the visitors settled to force four consecutive corners early on.

The Yeltz continued to press and went close to opening the scoring when Nathan

Bridgwater 0 Halesowen 1

Jackson's 18th minute shot from the edge of the penalty area was tipped over the bar by Purnell.

After Reid put Halesowen ahead, Yeltz goalkeeper Paul Evans played his part in securing the points.

He just about palmed the ball away from Ollie Barnes after 26 minutes as Bridgwater's stepped up their search for an equaliser.

Just before half-time, Dave Pearce was put through on the Halesowen goal with just Evans to beat. But he was denied as Evans

got a vital touch to turn the ball behind for a corner.

The Robins were given a glorious 50th-minute chance when they were awarded an indirect free-kick just six yards out from the Halesowen goal, after Evans handled a back pass.

But the incident turned comical as Bridgwater made a complete hash of the indirect set-piece by playing the ball straight to Halesowen without even an attempt on goal.

For most of the second period Halesowen's solid midfield and impressive defence preserved the lead before the home

side finished with a late flourish.

With 90 minutes on the clock, Bridgwater substitute Kenzie Farnham turned to fire wide and in the fifth minute of added-time Evans produced a crucial fingertip touch to divert Danny Wring's 20-yarder onto the crossbar.

Bridgwater Town: Purnell; C. Mawford, Barnes, Turner (Pople 84), Pitcher, Middleton (Watts 67), J. Mawford, Wring (c), Clowes (Farnham 77), Monks, Pearce. **Subs not used:** Irish, Champion.

Halesowen Town: Evans; Westwood, Caines, Folkes, Smith, Saunders (c) (Gueyes 71), M. Jackson, N. Jackson, Grier (Mills 83), Haseley, Reid. **Subs not used:** Flower, Drake, Followay.

Ref: J. McCaffery (Launceston) **Att:** 167

BAGGIES EYEING NAISMITH SWOOP

ALBION are hoping to steal a march in the summer scramble for new signings by making a bid for Rangers forward Steven Naismith.

Stories from Scotland claim the troubled Old Firm club's administrators have rejected an opening offer from the Baggies for the 25-year-old.

Hawthorns chiefs have been alerted to Naismith's potential availability on a cut-price deal because of the financial chaos engulfing Ibrox.

Naismith, who is currently sidelined by a cruciate knee ligament injury but expects to be fit for the start of pre-season training, can play as a central striker or as a wide midfielder.

He is among a group of Rangers players who negotiated cut-price summer release clauses in exchange for taking huge pay-cuts when the Glasgow club went into administration last month.

And sources north of the border suggest the Baggies have attempted to jump ahead of potential transfer rivals by moving early for the former Kilmarnock man.

Scotland goalkeeper Allan McGregor, who is also in the group of players potentially available at bargain prices, has also been watched by the Baggies as an alternative to No.1 summer target Ben Foster.

The 30-year-old was among a host of keepers Albion enquired about last summer before eventually striking a deal to sign Foster from Birmingham on a season-long loan.

He opted to sign a new contract at Rangers but now looks certain to leave in the summer.

Baggies boss Roy Hodgson

by Steve Madeley

is keen to strengthen his side in the summer if he stays at The Hawthorns and he believes he will be backed by the club.

He said: "The one thing is that everyone here sings from the same hymn sheet. There's no 'I want this, they want that'."

"But the fact is we have to be constantly looking to improve in every area."

"If you stop improving you go backwards - it's not a question of standing still for a bit. The moment you do that you go backwards."

Meanwhile, midfielder Youssouf Mulumbu has urged his team-mates to forget about new contracts until they secure their Premier League status.

Mulumbu insists the Baggies are again looking over their shoulders at the relegation scrap after picking up just one point from their last four games.

"Some players will obviously be thinking about the last year of their contracts but, at the moment, the most important thing is the team," said Mulumbu, who is hoping for a recall against Blackburn on Saturday. "We need to win this game on Saturday."

Bears are hungry to taste more success



Warwickshire County Cricket team are pictured for their 2012 season at Edgbaston. Front row, left to right: Varun Chopra, Rikki Clarke, Ian Westwood, Jim Troughton, Darren Maddy, Neil Carter, Chris Woakes, Boyd Rankin. Centre, left to right: William Porterfield, Steffan Piolet, Andy Miller, Keith Barker, Chris Wright, Richard Johnson. Back, left to right: Ricardo Gordon, Laurie Evans, Tom Allin, Tom Milnes, Chris Metters, Atteq Javid.

WARWICKSHIRE director of cricket Ashley Giles has not put his players under any pressure to deliver the County Championship title this season.

The Bears finished last season as runners-up behind Lancashire with the race for glory going down to the very last day of the campaign.

Giles has taken stock of 2011 and spent the winter analysing the fine margins which brought his side so close to their first Championship trophy since 2004.

But the former England spinner

revealed he has not set his players any targets for the summer.

"Our form in the County Championship was very good and we obviously got very close last year. Can we go one better? That's what we are working towards but it doesn't mean it is going to happen," said Giles.

"I have been looking how we can eke out that one or two per cent which can make the difference for this coming season. It is hopefully a matter of fine tuning things to help us make that extra step but I don't want to put anyone under massive pressure."

"I never set any targets in terms of we should win this trophy and we shouldn't win that one. But I would like to see an improvement in our limited over cricket; in particular we were disappointing at times in Twenty20."

Warwickshire all-rounder Chris Woakes will miss the opening two months of the campaign after damaging ankle ligaments in pre-season but Giles confirmed the majority of the squad are fit and itching to get started.

"The guys are in good shape. Everyone is hungry and ready to hit the ground running," he said.

Dream is ended in last game

Bromsgrove 4 OHHC Ladies 0 OLD HALESONIANS LADIES' push for promotion was scuppered after a defeat against fellow promotion-chasers Bromsgrove.

Old Hales will not get up to speed and will be disappointed with their performance in the final game of the season. They finished in fourth place in the Worcestershire League Division 2. **OHHC 5th XI 2 Old Silhillians 1**

Old Halesonians 5th XI hosted Old Silhillians at Great Park to complete their season.

Old Halesonians showed why their third place position in the league was deserved as they dominated the game.

Old Silhillians struggled to get up to pace, and never looked like winning the fixture.

Old Halesonians' goals came from a Jim Gurnin penalty flick and youngster Gareth Bayley.

The win ensured Hales finished third in the ENER-G MRHA Central League South West 2 Division.

Varnish is edged out

JESS VARNISH'S first bid for glory at the world track championships in Australia ended in disappointment as she just missed out on a medal.

Varnish, of Halesowen Cycling Club, and Victoria Pendleton were pipped to the bronze medal by China in the Women's Team Sprint.

Varnish and Pendleton's world record from February's Track World Cup was bettered by Germany in qualifying and Kristina Vogel and Miriam Welte went faster still to win the final in a new best of 32.549, with Australia second.

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